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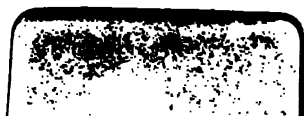
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*R. Buthy. 1810.*

**PRESENT STATE**  
**OF THE**  
***SPANISH COLONIES;***  
**INCLUDING**  
**A PARTICULAR REPORT OF**  
**HISPAÑOLA,**  
**OR THE**  
***SPANISH PART OF SANTO DOMINGO.***

THE  
NEW  
REVENUE  
COLLECTION  
OF  
THE  
REVENUE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
THE  
REVENUE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
THE  
REVENUE  
DEPARTMENT

H. Bryer, Printer, Bridge-Street, Blackfriars, London.





*Freeman. sculp.*

*Ferdinand VII. King of Spain*

*From a portrait in the possession of Admiral Spedacci*

*Published by Longman & Co. Sept. 1830.*

PRESENT STATE  
OF THE  
*SPANISH COLONIES;*  
INCLUDING  
A PARTICULAR REPORT OF  
HISPAÑOLA,  
OR THE  
*SPANISH PART OF SANTO DOMINGO;*  
WITH A  
GENERAL SURVEY OF THE SETTLEMENTS  
ON THE  
*SOUTH CONTINENT OF AMERICA,*  
AS RELATES TO  
HISTORY, TRADE, POPULATION, CUSTOMS, MANNERS, &c.  
WITH A  
CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE SENTIMENTS OF THE PEOPLE  
ON THEIR  
RELATIVE SITUATION TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY, &c.

---

BY WILLIAM WALTON, JUN.

SECRETARY TO THE EXPEDITION WHICH CAPTURED THE CITY OF SANTO DOMINGO  
FROM THE FRENCH; AND RESIDENT BRITISH AGENT THERE.

---

Quod sol atque imbres dederant, quod terra crearat  
Sponte sua, satis id placabat pectora donum.  
Quod superest, æs atque aurum, ferrumque repertum est,  
Et simul argenti pondus.

LUCRETIVS, lib. v.

—mores hominum....et urbes.

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VOL. I.

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PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1810.



243. c. 38.





## PREFACE.

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THE precipitation with which the following sheets are put to press, will, it is hoped, be admitted as some excuse for any want of classification and orderly arrangement, that may be occasionally observed in the course of the narrative. The work was commenced on a sick and boisterous voyage across the ocean, and was completed amidst other weightier occupations, and, during intervals, in a great measure stolen from the social intercourse of the author with relations and friends, from whom he had been separated from his childhood. It was thought, however, that if it could be deemed to contain any information of interest or importance, its value would necessarily be diminished by delay of publication, at a time when the public mind seemed to be, in a particular manner, drawn to the new world, and seeking especially to extend its hitherto

imperfect knowledge of the Spanish Settlements in that quarter.

It having fallen to the lot of the author to visit, early in life, the people and countries of which he here attempts a faint delineation, he had formed the design of putting his researches together at some future period, in a large and general description of the Spanish Colonies, and had, with that view, collected a variety of materials relating both to the Spanish Islands and the shores of the Continent, from La Vela to the Oronoko, which have been, during the last war, the most accessible to foreigners. From his intercourse with Spanish officers, and with the literati of the country, he had been enabled to obtain the documents which were necessary to form the groundwork of such an undertaking; and he had, besides, compiled much relating to the same subject, during a long residence in Spain, where he had been favoured with access to the best libraries, and furnished with communications from several persons who had resided in official situations in the Spanish Indies. Happening, however, to be among the first of those who were taken by the French, at the breaking out of the contest in Hispaniola, many of these papers were then unfortunately

lost, and, to complete his calamity, the remainder perished on board his Majesty's ship the Lark, which had conveyed part of the British troops from Jamaica to the siege of the city of Santo Domingo, and foundered in the month of August, 1809, during one of those dreadful hurricanes, which sometimes sweep the West India seas. Thus deprived of what he had collected during the course of seven years application and labour, the author is now left with little else, than the traces of his memory to recur to for his guidance, and he therefore wishes to be considered as bringing forward the present publication, rather as an essay, than as a complete treatise on the important subject to which it relates.

The discovery and colonization of distant regions, having been rendered subservient to the best and most valuable purposes of human life, by the intercourse and exchange which have been established between them, the description of such countries becomes a pleasing theme to the youthful mind; while it conveys instruction to the traveller or navigator, who may visit them for the purposes of research, of business, or of pleasure. Respecting the Spanish Settlements, we were in the greatest want of information; what

we had, being derived from their own authors, who wrote soon after the discoveries of Columbus, and whose works, from two centuries intervening, are now become obsolete; or else from the French literati, who have lately visited their shores.

It may, perhaps, be thought that some parts of the second volume, are anticipated by what others have lately written on the same subjects; but it ought also, in candour, to be considered, that the same sources of information were open to the author, and were actually explored by him about the same time. Reference is here made chiefly to Depons' work on the Caraccas. Where, however, the author's personal observation could not direct him, he has, without scruple, availed himself of the best authorities, to which he could procure access. While he has endeavoured to divest his narrative of cumberous minutiae, he has been ambitious of inserting whatever he has been able to discover of a curious, interesting, and instructive nature, in order to throw as much light as he could, on the transatlantic possessions of Spain, and their relative situation to the mother country. This candid avowal of his sentiments and views, he humbly submits to the consideration of the public, so-

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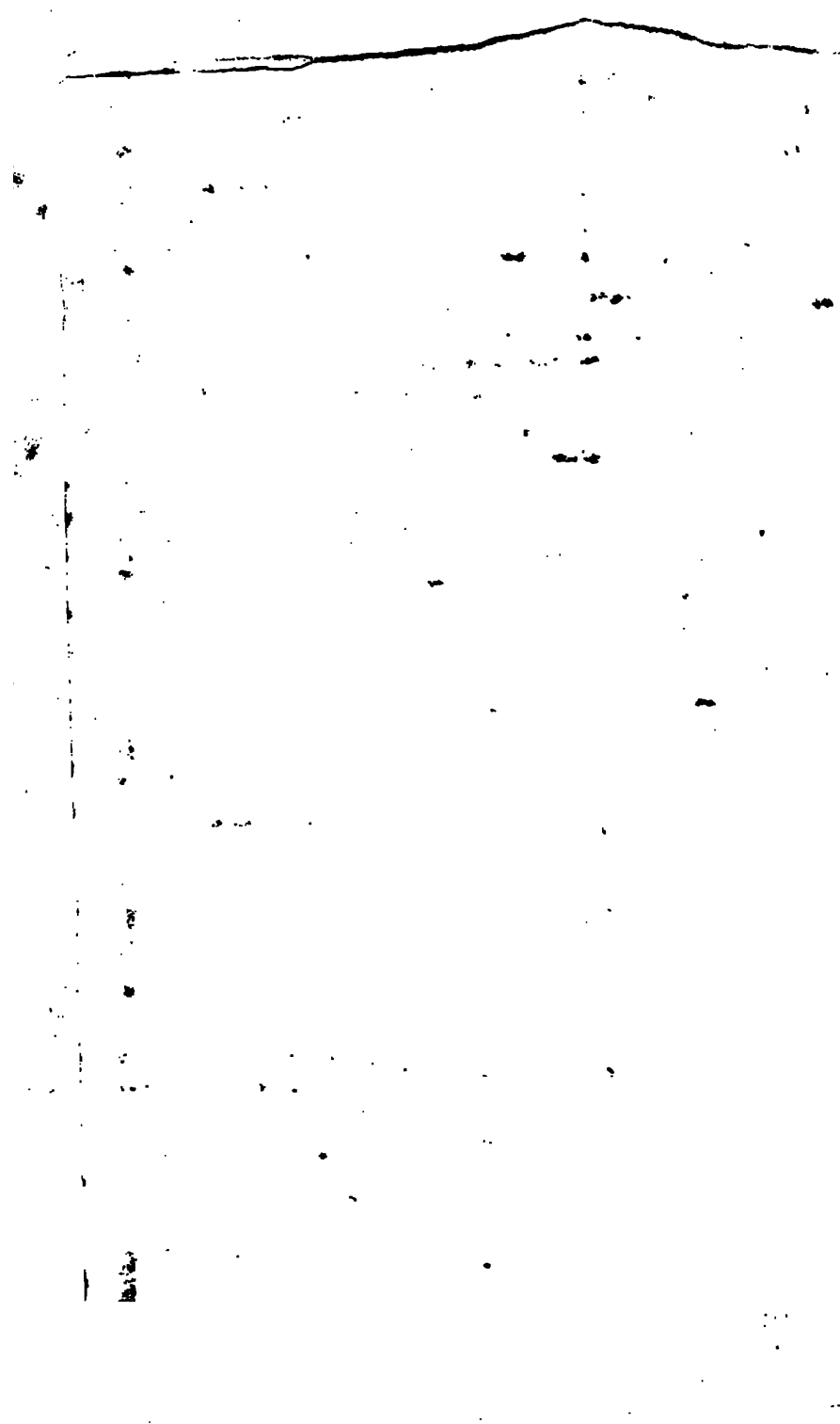
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**PRESENT STATE**  
**OF THE**  
***SPANISH COLONIES.***

**INTRODUCTION.**

**HISPAÑOLA.**

To give a full and perfect account of so extensive and varied an island as Hispañola, might absorb a life devoted to the study of geography, topography, botany, and mineralogy; of themselves distinct and important sciences, in which the narrator would require to be equally profound as in those of history and political economy. Educated in the active school of trade, and unprepared by the acquisition of those various branches of knowledge that qualify the general historian, little more than description can be expected from me; elaborate and abstruse disquisitions I

cannot enter into, nor attempt any excursions of philosophical reasoning; which indeed often mislead; for, being founded generally on speculative and partial systems, they do not accord with those simple principles of truth and fact, which ought to be the sole object and ornament of history. Such however have too often been the productions of the French literati; mixed compositions of history and philosophy, a flowery system of things, developed to give room for the delusions of sophistry; narratives of travels dressed up by persons who never left their native country, and grounded on the hearsay of others, who but too often see things reflected from the mirror of prejudice.

The intent of the following sheets is to give an insight into countries little known amongst us, to assist in placing them in the interesting point of view they deserve, and to rescue them from that neglect in which they have hitherto remained. They become doubly interesting in the present advancing crisis, as they open resources to enterprize, and an exchange of produce founded on commercial relations, and protected by our own government. My desire is to tread in paths that have hitherto been to Englishmen nearly inaccessible; to add my

mite as well to the annals of geography, as to the information of the literary and commercial world, and to contribute to the establishment of a correct acquaintance with an interesting race of men, so long kept beyond our reach from want of convenient intercourse. In the prosecution of my attempt, exactitude shall be my course, and truth my land-mark.

Placed from my early youth amongst the people of Spain, with whose peculiarities of character I was pleased, with whose manners I easily assimilated and became familiar, and whose elegant language it was my delight to cultivate, I formed there the ground-work of my research; I discerned in them dormant resources which were stifled by their system of government and internal policy; I beheld a nation labouring under the thralldom of ignorance and depression, and bridled by the iron curb of mental and political terror; yet I saw the diamond sparkling in the surrounding incrustation, that wanted but the torch of reason to distinguish it, and a suitable process of improvement to bring forth its genuine lustre.

If it be true that instruction alone fits man for a state of society, and unites him by the bond of mutual happiness and self-preservation; that it alone calls forth the latent ener-

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gics and virtues of the soul ;—rend but asunder the veil of night, that has so long overclouded Spain, and its inhabitants are capable of all things. Hitherto existing but as the vassals of the great, and accustomed to pay to their decrees, and those of the government they composed, the same implicit deference as to the infallible precepts of their pastors ; they were impressed with the idea, that to reason was a privilege they had not a right to arrogate ; yet like the genial soil on which they toiled, their minds wanted not the hand of the tiller, but merely the planting of those seeds from which were to spring the principles of true and active patriotism ; they were not sensible of wrongs the extent of which they did not comprehend ; and accustomed as they were to endure slavery, it did not appear to them an evil to destroy which deserved the sacrifice of their blood. It is with the Spaniard as with the unlettered Indian ; point out to him the summit of happiness to which he is to ascend, make him sensible of the enjoyment that there awaits him ; rouse him by example, and guide him by the hand of union ; intervening obstacles will then increase his ardour and his heart and arm will obey the impulse of conviction.

It would be almost intruding on the patience

of the British reader, to enter on long and general remarks respecting their distant possessions, though yet so little known among us, were it not for that interest which every bosom feels for the welfare of all belonging to this injured people ; and at a moment when such national sympathy pervades every class, even outlines cannot be altogether unacceptable. If that alliance which at present subsists between this country and Spain, be the emanation of a congenial spirit, as well as the tie of interest, it becomes of equal import to attend to this vital extremity of their political body ; and its distance ought not to suffer us to behold it through the wrong end of the perspective. Our experience of the composition of character which marked the heterogeneous mass of the persons of political influence in Spain, and which even under the immediate eye of government has shewn us the obstacles which have operated against its independence in Europe, may give us an idea of those which exist in its colonies abroad ; what then ought not to be dreaded, in a distant clime, where the relations of interest and nationality are nearly severed, where the sway of authority is only reflective, and where through the feebleness of delegated power the people are left to them-

selves, and exposed to the machinations of their artful enemy.

In my humble attempt therefore I am not devoid of hope, that its result may be of some general benefit; time, however, has not enabled me to give much classification or arrangement to my detached remarks, but they will be found to contain at least the outlines of the present state of the country, and a sketch, not of what it once was, but of what by proper management it soon might be.—My ambition is to please and to be useful; I dare not aspire at more.

Intending in my outset to convey an idea of the Spanish part of Hispanola, the island which has most, and more recently come within my immediate notice, and of which we have nothing novel or correct in print, I shall forbear to ransack early writers, for the purpose of presenting their ideas in a new dress; and as my remarks are derived from actual observation, or good authority of a recent date, I submit them to an indulgent public with the greater confidence.

Unlike Raynal, and many more, I ground myself not on the general reports of others; nor do I attempt to pourtray scenes that have only existed in fancy. Confining myself within



the pale of descriptive truth, I leave philosophic deductions to the visionary and the speculative, and without attempting to conjure up events from the shades of futurity, if I point at momentous changes which are now impending, it is that they may be counteracted, and turned into the proper stream of advantage, and that the general concussion which has agitated the bosom of Spain may not fatally extend to her Transatlantic settlements.

My views are to benefit the merchant who has not had the opportunities of going abroad, by enabling him, from his own cabinet, to direct his commercial plans, in countries he yet imperfectly knows; and to hinder so many inconsistent adventures in which, from want of knowledge he fails, involving in his own distress that of the community at large. My endeavour is to promote the increase of trade within its proper channels; to point out new resources which may add to the prosperity of the nation, and frustrate the designs of the common enemy against the commercial prosperity of England; and to demonstrate the means of improving those advantages which are consistent with her national honour, and which come within her reach.

In contending as she has done with a go-

vernment that admits of no law but convenience and caprice, it is but just to increase her scale of commerce in every possible way, and it is right to be prepared to avail herself of those occasions which the injustice of the enemy may afford to her naval power, or to her manufacturing and commercial enterprize, and thus to secure her own just retribution.

The world at present no longer exhibits the portrait of a common state ; every selfish effort is now made for individual preservation, which, with England, in great measure depends on her being enabled to waft her own merchandize unrivalled to every distant quarter of the globe. Political society is now convulsed, much as is a city shaken by an earthquake ; and nations, like individuals, must seek to ensure their safety by their own exertions. The system of 'no intercourse without sovereignty,' is at an end ; the increase of trade is an addition to power, and it is better purchased by wise regulations than by armies and fleets.



## CHAP. I.

FIRST DISCOVERY, AND EARLY HISTORY OF  
HISPANOLA.

It was in the year 1492 that Columbus first undertook his projected discovery of a Western Hemisphere, and in his passage observed the variation of the compass. He noted, at a distance of 200 leagues from the isle of Ferro, that the needle did not point as usual to the N. but declined to the N. W. and found this phenomenon increased as he proceeded W. A scale of reasoning, founded on cosmography, astronomy, and the theory of the antipodes, was the basis of his scheme. Other regions he conceived must exist in the West, to maintain the equilibrium of the globe, and the theories of several of the ancients led to the solution of this problem. To sagacity then we owe the original conception of his project, which his love of glory, and his zeal for the good of science, urged him to carry into effect. The difficulties he encountered, the obstacles he overcame, and the dangers he braved, in the execution of his plans, have already been so

frequently delineated, that to say more, were mere repetition; yet the impartial and enlightened will ever weep over the fate of this great man, and feel sensations of disgusting horror, on reflecting that both contemporaries and posterity have tried to rob him of the merit and glory of his enterprize; but whilst envy and intrigue supplanted him in the favour and gratitude of his king, and even authors rose to contest the originality of his plans, of the execution of which they could not deprive him, it is a consolation to feel, that they have only raised monuments to his fame, which will exist beyond the bounds of time, and have woven for him a brighter crown by enhancing that merit they tried to eclipse, and embalming those laurels they attempted to wither.

In speaking of this great occurrence, a late valuable Spanish author has observed, that another enterprise yet remained to the world worthy of a genius of the first class, and of intrepid courage. From the notions that were entertained of the Eastern coasts of Asia, it was supposed that they were at an immense distance from the coasts and known islands of Europe and Africa. That such an extensive space might contain large countries filled with mighty nations and

states, was, of course, a conjecture that naturally followed. What an object of wise and laudable curiosity! Even supposing the distance between Europe, the East of Africa, and the confines of Asia, was less than it had hitherto been supposed, or that the interval was only filled by the ocean, in how much shorter and more convenient a way, might the trade to the Indies be carried on by the Western course? These reflections incessantly occupied the mind of the illustrious Genoese, Christopher Columbus. Well acquainted with all the arts and sciences conducive to the improvement and perfection of navigation then known; stored with sufficient and experimental knowledge of all the yet discovered seas, in correspondence with philosophers of all countries; acquainted with all the books extant at the time, on the subjects of philosophy and history, he raised his ideas above the standard of his day, and consequently experienced all the opposition, contradiction, and difficulties, which are usually combined and directed against those, who dare to step aside from the beaten track. Happy for mankind, that Columbus united greatness of mind and perseverance with a large understanding, which

enabled him, through time and patience, to prevail on a powerful and prosperous prince to protect and patronize his bold undertaking, so as to display to the wondering world, a spectacle, which all the brightest ages of antiquity could not boast.

It may clash with the principles of the social compact, to invade regions to which discovery alone gives title; and with those of reason and justice also, to carry an unequal and deadly warfare into the bosom of peace and untutored nature; nay, it may appear an outrage to humanity and a violation of right: but if the pages of ancient history, have been sacred to similar heroes; if those of modern times are dedicated to eulogize the destroyers of the human race; in what rank shall we then place those adventuring demigods of the Western world; where a handful of men were opposed to millions in a distant clime, conquered a population larger than their own in Europe, subdued regions of more extent than the continent of the East, and, though few in number, eventually planted the standard of sovereignty for that nation which sent them forth. What rank shall we then give to Columbus, Pizarro, and Cortes, when Cæsar,

Alexander, and even the Corsican, arrogate to themselves the first seats? Will their acts bear better the analysis of reason and reflection? Have not their paths equally been stained with blood? Have not perjury, cruelty, ferocity, and the flames of civil war, purposely kindled amongst the wretches they attempted to subjugate, mutually been their weapons? If the thirst of gold impelled one class, did not that of empire, urge on the other?

As the best means of conveying an adequate idea of the island of St. Domingo to our readers, we will proceed to take a statistical view, and a sketch of the character and genius of the inhabitants, and institute a short inquiry into their trade, the extent and division of territory, revenues, strength, agriculture, the nature of its productions, the means of improvement, the causes of its decrease, the progress of commercial industry and political prosperity. As there is much affinity in the manners and customs of all the inhabitants, even of the other Spanish possessions in America, these remarks will assist to give a general outline of them also.

St. Domingo, or Hispanola, (so called to distinguish it from Haiti) discovered by the



great Columbus, in the reign of the immortal Ferdinand and Isabella of Castile, is the largest and most fertile of all the Antilles. It stands in 18. 19 degrees N. latitude, and from 68 to 74 W. longitude from London, opposite and near the Spanish main. It is situated between Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, in the Caribbean sea. Raynal and the Spanish authors say it is 200 leagues long, and from 60 to 80 wide, but even our most correct maps are very imperfect, nor is it easy to traverse and survey wilds, trodden only by the huntsman or the fugitive negro; to the scale of latitude and longitude, therefore, we are indebted in great measure for its measurement.

It was called by the natives *Haiti*, or Highland, for such it presents itself, particularly to the N.; they named it also *Quisqueya*, or the mother of countries, both which names appear to be expressive epithets. When first discovered, its population was immense, the Spaniards say four millions, and the English authors two, but as a census was not made till the *repartimientos* took place, which was after the conquest was completed, it is difficult to say what number perished by the sword and famine; yet scarcely had a century

beamed over the country from its discovery, when disease, principally the small-pox, and inhabital hardships, particularly in the mines, to which the Spaniards, thirsty to amass wealth, forced them beyond their strength, had nearly threatened the entire extinction of its people. Had we but known the language of the Indians, they, no doubt, deplored their fate in strains of native elegance, and genuine feeling.

To this land, as abounding in gold, Columbus was directed after discovering Cuba, and some smaller islands; it was the first he settled, and decidedly his favourite. Possessing fertility, local beauty, and natural productions, beyond any other, it was long held the most valuable appendage of the Spanish crown, and gifted and privileged accordingly. Its mountains teeming with valuable ores, first produced to the discoverers a compensation for toil and danger, and they carried back wealth to pay the expenses of their equipment, to excite the ardour of their own nation to continue discoveries, and to rouse jealousy in the other potentates of Europe, at their success.

Its valleys, luxuriant in the richest pastures, and intersected by valuable rivers, sus-

tained it in its decline, long after the mines were closed, to which only the Spaniards seem to have given value. Its slopes, prolific in every wood that trade can require, or ornament call for, afford every production analogous to the temperature produced by the inequality of its elevation, where every climate can be found, and the thermometer be raised or depressed by a change of locality.

Lulled in the lap of plenty, with a rich soil, no wants, and few vices, the aborigines must have appeared as beings congenial to so benignant a climate. Interesting in their forms, dress, and simple manners, perfect children of nature, they won the feelings of the great discoverer; and actually from them his followers might have learnt lessons of benevolence and the softer virtues. Without refinements, their state of savage life was an existence of ease, quiet, and active friendship; for if at all roused into resistance, they were impelled by their own wrongs, and goaded by the edge of their own sufferings. "They appeared," says Robertson, "in the simple innocence of nature, naked; their black hair, long and uncurled, floated upon their shoulders, or was bound in tresses around their heads. They had no beards, and every part



of their bodies was perfectly smooth. Their complexion was of a dusky copper colour, their features singular rather than disagreeable, their aspect gentle and timid: though not tall, they were well-shaped and active." "The ingenuity and industry of this race," says another elegant writer, "must have exceeded the measure of their wants. Placed in a medium between savage life, properly so called, and the refinement of polished society, they were perhaps equally exempt from the bodily distresses and sanguinary passions of the former condition, and from the artificial necessities, wants and solitudes of the latter." They were unquestionably the most unoffending, gentle and benevolent of the human race.

To this delightful spot, to this salubrious country, abounding in riches, where every plant wore a novel appearance, and the trees bent under an exuberance of luscious and unknown fruits; where, in short, nature seemed to have formed an elysium that romantic fancy cannot reach, much less describe, the Spaniards were conducted by the immortal Columbus.

The French part of the island, though a division not equal to one third of the whole

territory, was justly considered, in the zenith of its prosperity, as the garden spot of the western world; still it boasted not the local advantages of the Spanish possessions in point of fertility, resources, irrigation, elevation, or mines; not that mines afford the greatest local riches, although the Spaniards have attached that idea to all their possessions, and have thence formed the criterion of their value: in a soil like this, culture bears away the palm, and next to manufactures and trade, it is the parent of national strength, and ages serve but to add to its resources.

To trace the progress of this first European colony from its origin, were merely to copy the ideas of so many able authors that have already exhausted the subject; it were to recite a mixture of facts that sully rather than adorn the page of history. Suffice it to say, that this island long continued the sole property of the Spaniards, became instrumental in effecting a variety of other discoveries on the main, in settling other islands, and extending new conquests. Sometimes it rose to a high pitch of splendour, and was again depressed by a strange concatenation of events, that originated generally in misguided policy.

It was not till the middle of the sixteenth

century that the Buccaneers, a hardy warlike set of confederates, who joined together for their own safety and aggrandizement, took possession of Tortuga, from whence they made excursions to the main island to hunt the bulls of the Spaniards, with whom they kept up a continual and predatory warfare. At length they attracted the notice of the French cabinet, who offered them protection, and gave them settlers and arms; when, invited by the fertility of the W. end, they took possession, and maintained it by force. They found it suited to the culture of most of the valuable commodities and luxuries of European trade; it advanced with rapid strides till it grew to that colossal greatness witnessed in our own days, and was overthrown by those general plans, with which the French revolutionists thought to convulse and confuse the rest of the world. The two cabinets at home, having at length come to a mutual explanation and agreement on the subject of these hitherto forced possessions, limits were proposed, and commissioners on each side sent out to draw the lines of demarcation, and fix the rights of the contending settlers. It was agreed that a line should be drawn from the bay of Mansenillo on the N. touch-

ing on defined points, to the river Pedernales on the S.; leaving to the French the tract of land that lay W., containing about 1000 cubic or square leagues, intersected with smaller mountains, and ending in two long strips of land or capes, less fertile, with confined plains; for perhaps all theirs united do not exceed that of Azua, belonging to the Spaniards.

The Spanish division is estimated at about 3175 square leagues, a tract of country equal to the support of a population of eight millions of souls, and preserving in great measure the virgin state of its soil, whilst that of its neighbours is tired, and particularly in many of the surrounding windward islands, worn out. Here clothing and implements of culture alone are required for the planter, and whilst to other islands we send coal for the purposes of fuel, and lime for building, here the tall and crowded forests defy extinction, and the abundant lime stone, unequalled any where, lies neglected and of no use.

So valuable to the cabinet of Paris did their ancient possessions in this island appear, in a financial and commercial point of view, as a maritime school, and so nearly connected with the most numerous and powerful classes

in trade ; that, no sooner did a temporary suspension of hostilities give them free passage at sea, than they sent an immense and expensive armament under Leclerc, but instead of succeeding in its subjugation, their projects were all foiled ; they resorted to means till then unheard of ; confirming by their conduct that empire which they had come to dislodge : for their own failures and treasons gave the insurgents fresh arms, whilst their traits of bloody conduct will never be effaced from the memory of the survivors ; and though France still hankers after these flesh-pots of Egypt, and will still attempt to regain them, yet if the present existing animosity is but kept alive and well directed, her empire may for ever be broken. The treachery by which the person of the brave and unwary Toussaint was entrapped, his cruel fate, and the anarchy that has followed his loss, are deeply engraven lessons that will remain indelible on the shield of Haitian independence, and guard the people against that intrigue which once more begins to insinuate itself amongst them. To enter however into the details of these horrors were merely to burden and darken the narrative of little less than cannibalism ; and as the occurrences have principally happen-

ed in our own days, it may not be thought necessary to particularize the several chiefs of colour who have successively wielded the sword of authority, but it may not at the same time be deemed irrelevant to the subject proposed, before I enter on my general description of the Spanish part of Hispanola, to give a succinct outline of the old French division, now known by the name of Haiti.

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## CHAP. II.

### PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF HAITI.

IN the year 1790 the French division contained 497,000 souls, of which 38,000 were whites, 9000 people of brown colour, and 450,000 blacks. The wars of Rigaud, Toussaint, and the French destruction, are estimated at nearly one half, and emigration, and the natural decrease of blacks when left to themselves, may be safely calculated to equal one third; by which it would result, that the present population consists of about 100,000

souls, a statement that even exceeds the estimate of the most sensible among them ; for the late and existing intestine divisions have greatly thinned their numbers, and a state of continual warfare with dubious issue, has driven many to seek quiet in other countries. Their onsets are still often sanguinary, and quarter is seldom given by the victor. Thus in point of population they are, as will hereafter appear, on nearly an equal footing with their Spanish neighbours.

General Petion holds possession of the S. side of the island, at the head of the brown colour, but their line of division varies, as each party advances or recedes, and the seat of government is at Port au Prince. He is of a sensible humane character ; tutored in the schools of Europe, his mind has received an expansion that fits him for the helm of government, and his exterior an address that would distinguish him in a court. Ill suited perhaps to witness scenes to which his station, as a military commander, exposes him in the field of battle, the tear of sensibility often bedews his cheek at the sight of slaughter, and though brave, enterprising, and bold, he values more the responsive glow of a humane act, than the crimsoned laurel he has plucked



from the brow of his adversary ; he sighs at the purchase of victory with the sacrifice of those subjects he loves : in short, nothing can be more descriptive of his peculiar virtues, than the motto of an English artist, at the foot of his portrait. “ Il n'a jamais fait couler les larmes de personne.”

Though the disorganized state and continually threatened invasion of his country, require all his time in the field, he casts a provident eye on the well-being of those he heads as elective President, and though his code of laws does him credit, yet the civil administration is extremely relaxed, and the tenure of property very insecure. The Mole St Nicolas has been the chief seat of contest, and very frequently the scene of personal bravery on both sides. His revenues come principally from the rents of confiscated French estates and houses, import and export duties, local taxes, &c. By means of general requisition of all above fourteen years of age, he musters about 9000 men, of whom the regulars have a good appearance, and his population has been increased by collecting the people of colour who lately left St. Domingo, though most prefer the present quiet security of the Spaniards. Nearly all males



are forced to join the army, and the women are left to gather the crops, two thirds of which go to the profit of the farmer, after reimbursing the hire of assistants; the remaining third to the government, whose officers strictly attend to its collection. He has a small fleet of light vessels, but they seldom meet the foe. The French governors of St. Domingo made repeated overtures to him, which he had the good policy and prudence to disregard, but in case of ill success in that implacable enmity which exists between the contending chiefs of colour, his territory may yet become the seat of intrigue, either by reviving the embers of civil discord, or improving the moments of defeat; nay are not these plans and measures already anticipated? or else is there no foundation for the following authenticated report?"

"General Rigaud has been sent by Buonaparte to St. Domingo, with a view of establishing a footing or interest in the island; either by rendering one or other of the rival chiefs dependent on him, by proffers of assistance, or by creating a third party in opposition to both. Rigaud had arrived at Port au Prince in April, and had opened a negotiation with Petion."

Christophe, who is in possession of the N. side at the head of the black colour, is nearly the reverse in character to Petion, and perhaps better fitted to sway over that class of people he is called to command. More the self-raised despot, than the elected chief of his sable myrmidons, they tremble at his active coercion, and his army thus possesses the advantages of superior discipline, though his talents are much beneath those of his rival. Many of his acts would not bear the scrutiny of philosophic justice, but where terror is equally to be the lever of action, his character is the best suited. His population is the largest, and his troops amount to about 10,000 men. His fleet is also the most numerous, and consists of two corvettes, nine brigs, and a few schooners, the force of which he is now attempting to augment from North America, but though it possesses the exterior of organization, and is under the command of a white admiral, it seldom leaves the harbours, and requires no naval chronicle to record its feats. The empress, relict of Dessalines, resides at the Cape, the seat of government, but declines any shew or parade of the rank she once held in the country, is exemplary in her conduct, and refuses the attendance of a

proffered guard; as corresponding to her widowed dignity. The Spaniards seem to incline to Christophe, and think him the most secure neighbour; but since the new possession of their country, no treaty has been entered upon, owing to a want of intercourse and approbation from home; but one on the defensive scale is in agitation, the principal ground work of which must be a union of interests, to repel foreign attacks, a general release of all Spanish individuals, free or slaves, and a guarantee that the latter, in desertion, will not be encouraged, but returned.

Independent, however, of the two chiefs already mentioned, who at present share, or rather contend for the empire of Haiti, has arisen another, Philippe Dòs, the élève of the great and unfortunate Toussaint, late on the side of Christophe; but now a chief of considerable power, and at war with both rivals. Seated amidst the populous and fertile mountains of Mirbalais, in the centre of the island, and bordering on the Spanish limits, he has been followed by many partizans of the old causes, in which he was equally chief; his numbers have swelled to 6000 persons, and increase by the coming

in of the disaffected from the other competitors; whom he attracts by promises of a cessation of toil, and of the horrors of active war; grounding as the basis of his government, that they are to act only on the defensive, and pledging himself not to call them out but in case his lines are invaded.

Thus, this once fertile and valuable colony, which the French held, have struggled and now intrigue to regain; is torn by the contending interests of three chiefs, with each a standard, cause and party; and whilst the statesman looks forward, and ponders over the past, he is glad, that dear bought lessons, as well as barriers placed by the hand of nature, guard that quarter of the island which England has lately helped to rescue from the Gallic yoke, and hence it is rendered impervious to every attack from its neighbours, even were any such to be dreaded. The existing trade to this empire will be hereafter considered; so that from this short digression, it will be proper to return to the subject I proposed in the first part of my relation; and as it may be of use to the voyager whose access is by sea, and whose plans of trade are generally realized on the coast, I will begin by describing the coast,

with the harbours, detached islands, &c.; commencing at the line of demarcation on the S. side, tracing it E. round to the N.; proceeding then to take a view of the interior.

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### CHAP. III.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE COAST, HARBOURS, BAYS, AND DETACHED ISLANDS OF HISPANOLA.

THE Spanish division, as we have already remarked, commences on the S. side, from the Rio Pedernales or Flint river, flowing at the West side of the stupendous mountains of Baoruco (the Indian name), that rise majestically from the Spanish lines, and face, with a gentle slope, the sea to the S. opposite Beata island, forming La Bahia de Las Aguilas, or Eagles bay. In consequence of there being little or no population in the small harbours of Cabo Roxo and Abujas, they are unnoticed. Doubling the point that shelters it from the S. there is a small port, with good anchorage near Cape Falso, from

which, up to that in front of the mountains the coast is perfectly accessible in seven and ten fathoms water, between the small islands called los Frailes, (or the Friars), shallowing even to three, on a bank that lies to the N. of Beata.

This small island, three quarters of a league from the land, with a passage of 12 feet deep, was, till the fall of Santo Domingo, the great resort of French privateers, which eluded chase by drawing little water, and whilst they had hiding places in the back, they established signals on the top of the island, to give them notice of the approach of any vessel in the offing; as those bound to Haiti, Honduras or Jamaica, generally make this or Altavela, more to the S. W., a steering point of recognition from whence they take a fresh departure. Hither they brought their prizes to unload during the siege of that city, from whence they made expeditions in lighter vessels, with the provisions they amassed in this rendezvous, till admiral Rowley dislodged them by stationing two light vessels on these grounds. This island abounds in turtle, goats, wild fowl and fish, and is now the solitary abode of one fisherman, who supplies vessels wind bound

up, and where he ranges the lordly possessor of the wild. Columbus saw it in the year 1498, when he had overshot the city, and in August 1504 he took shelter in its passage from a storm. It is nearly two leagues and a half from E. to W., rather inclining to the N. E., and is better than a league wide. Its safest access, is at the W. end, in a bay that has ten fathoms water. Its soil is good, and was once in a state of cultivation.

To the E. of that magnificent range of mountains called Baoruco, is a small port called Petit Trou, erroneously laid down in our charts, the entrance of which is rocky and unsafe, though formerly frequented by small vessels from the capital, which came in search of the hunters' surplus.

Round the point, and nearly in a N. direction, is Neyba bay, into which empties itself the river of that name, that takes source in the above mountains, and laves a beautifully picturesque and woody country in an unequal stream of thirty leagues, swelled by many other tributary waters. A line drawn W. from the source of this river, would detach, and prick off that large promontory and fertile tract of land, that has long been in possession of the Maroons, or

fugitive negroes, who dwell independent, after braving the old Spanish power, and without mixing in any of the broils of their surrounding neighbours. When force has gone against them, they have retired into the recesses of the mountains, known only to them, living on game and the spontaneous roots of the earth, which they store in their hamlets with a provident care.

Here formerly existed the large and populous kingdom of Xaragua, so much dwelt on by the ancient Spanish authors; and in the early ages of the conquest, on those slopes were found productive and extensive settlements, particularly in sugar, that have not withstood the shock of revolutions, or the wasting hand of time. On this extent of verdant prospect from the sea, the passer by looks with pleasurable interest, mixed with the alloy of regret.

The whole number of these Maroons does not exceed 600, principally Spanish runaway slaves, who live in a kind of republican manner, intent only on their safety, and governed by their own regulations. They are tranquil, confined to their own limits, and only visit the neighbouring towns of St. John's and Azua, when they have tortoise shell, a super-



abundance of cured game, or a few ounces of gold, collected from the beds of the mountain torrent, to dispose of; which they exchange for powder and cloathing; as tobacco and rum, their chief luxuries, they grow amongst themselves.

They are not remarkable for any cruelties ever committed on their neighbouring countrymen, though, in 1804, they murdered the crews of two American vessels, which were driven by the currents upon their coast; for from their elevations they descry, at a great distance, every vessel that approaches, and it may, perhaps, be unsafe for small ones unguardedly to make a harbour there. The peculiar direction of the current, throws all floating wrecks into the bite of their promontory; and these they consider free booty. It is remarkable that all floating logs washed away at 40 leagues distance, generally beach there; a peculiarity that enters into the phenomena of currents. It would be difficult to overcome these Maroons by force of arms, or to hunt them down; but on the plan of governor Trelawny in Jamaica, they might be rendered of some utility to society; hardy as they are, and inured to toil, they might easily be reclaimed to habits of industry, and

taught to convert to national advantage, this choice region they occupy. The former Spanish governor made several useless attempts to subdue them, but never resorted to conciliatory measures.

An officer who once commanded an expedition against them, observes in a report describing this astonishing Eden which they have chosen for abode, that, when he ascended the mountains in pursuit of them, he found in their gardens luxuries rarely known in the other part of the island, and that their resting huts for the night were covered with cabbage-leaves of a much larger size than he had ever met with in Europe. They are about 200 men in arms; and with a knowledge of the defiles and local advantages of the spot, are a deadly foe to regular troops. Their captain's name is Ventura, the oldest and most respectable amongst them, and chief civil and military. They live on a variety of game that here abounds, principally the wild hog, and horned cattle, which, to save their powder, they catch in a snare, made of a thong, spread in the paths leading to their watering-places and accustomed haunts, that springs and closes by the force of a bended sapling. These they cure with salt from the immense mountain of mineral rock,

situated near Neyba, a valuable and interesting curiosity, which has the peculiarity of increasing considerably in weight when exposed to the air. Their climate is extremely temperate; they drink from the mineral springs that abound in this quarter; hunting is the occupation of the men, the cultivation of roots, and washing of gold from the mountains, that of the women and children; but sickness is unknown to all.

Neyba receives vessels of 30 tons burthen, and in seeking an outlet into the sea, runs over large beds of sand in a variety of channels, that annually change, and confound the pilot, but if collected into one, would make the entrance good, and considerably deeper.

Doubling the E. point of this bay, we enter Puerto Viejo, corresponding to the town of Azua la Antigua, that lies inland two leagues; and according to the testimony of Herrera and Oviedo, once was fertile in sugars, indigo, &c.; the remains of works for those productions are still visible. This is the first port on the south side where mahogany is cut, but its shipment is confined to a few annual cargoes; *lignum vitæ* is more general, and the Brasileto wood is unnoticed.



Between it, and Point Salinas to the E. lies Ocoa Bay, a large convenient watering place, with several small rivers falling into it. Here British vessels come to an anchor close to the land, and fire a gun as a signal to the inhabitants, who drive down their cattle which they supply at the cheap rate of 14 dollars per head of horned cattle, and 4 per hog and sheep. This bay, named from the river that flows into it, in shape resembles the greek omega, and is situated 18 leagues from the capital. Its entrance is two leagues across, and it gradually increases within, nearly to six. Its shores are clear, and the elevation of its coast makes it a good harbour to wood and water in. There are very large salt-pans to the right, that belong to the government, who rent out the privilege of selling this article, which is of general consumption throughout the island. On the E. side is the harbour of Caldera, capacious and safe, which Spanish ships, too large to cross the bar at the city, and in the windy seasons dreading the anchorage outside, were in the habit of visiting to complete their loading, which is done by mooring to the trees with a rafter ashore.

From Point Salinas or Ocoa, the coast runs from S. W. to E. as far as Nisao, in

which distance there are several anchoring places, such as Paya, Boca Canasta, &c. principally corresponding with the inland town of Banis, and where *lignum vitæ*, fustic, gum, and Brazil wood, are principally shipped.

Nisao is a mahogany port, and admits vessels under 20 feet, but is a good deal open to the S. The entrance is rocky, requires a pilot, and the river swells considerably in the freshes. Round this point, and three leagues higher, is Palenqui, an anchoring place that ships some wood. It is entirely open to the S. which renders it dangerous; and here his majesty's ship *Lark*, Captain Nicholas, slipped her cable in August, 1809, at the commencement of the gale in which she foundered. It was the landing place of the British troops that went against the city of Santo Domingo, and in its neighbourhood Admiral Duckworth drove ashore and destroyed the two French line of battle ships which escaped capture in the action off the city.

Two leagues higher is Boca Nigua, an anchoring place, opposite to a small river of that name, down which the woods are floated; but the holding ground, being on nearly a perpendicular bank, if once lost, is not easily regained, and a southerly wind creates great

surf on the shore. This neighbourhood produces the best wood in the island, but it is hard to float down the river, which is serpentine and extremely shallow, excepting in the rainy seasons, when it swells considerably, and often sweeps away many logs. There is a beautiful skeleton of sugar-works on its margin not equalled in point of structure and mechanism by any that ever existed in the French part; it was just completed, at an immense expence, when the island was ceded, yet so great was the national prejudice of the Spanish owner, that he quitted this and his other extensive estates and valuable houses, rather than submit to a new flag; and emigrated in a state of comparative poverty, only carrying with him to another island the negroes he could withdraw. Since that period, these works have been going fast to decay, for till now the possessor never gave them a thought.

Haina is a considerable bay two leagues further up, without an entrance into the large and beautiful river of that name, that falls into it, owing to an irregular bar of sand; but it is navigable some distance up, and is very convenient for the floating of those woods with which it is lined. There is a ferry-canoe to cross, by swimming your horse, that is

held by a halter on the side of the boat. This is the general mode also of crossing cattle, though to this day many rivers are crossed in a long frame, covered with bulls' hides, which the ferryman pushes over as he swims to the other side, and in which the passenger places himself horizontally; but when the winds reign from the S. in the summer seasons, it is difficult to land or load on account of the swell that beats heavy on the beach, in which case early in the morning is the best time. The road from hence to the capital is level and good, and evidently indicates that it once deserved the attention of government as a highway.

Here, in 1692, Admiral Penn landed 9000 men under General Venables, to capture the city of Santo Domingo, where they were defeated by the armed peasantry, and compelled to embark with disgrace. They were however successful on Jamaica, though Cromwell on their return sent both commanders to the tower, as a punishment for the failure of their first attempt. According to the Spaniards a circumstance then happened that may be deemed worthy of relation from being unknown to us.

The land-crabs found here are of an im-



mense size, burrow in the sands, and at night issue in great numbers. It is on record amongst the natives, that on the above occasion, in the still of the night, the English landed an ambuscade to surprise the Spanish camp, which, being unprepared, and consisting of irregulars, had it been pushed, must have certainly fallen. The advanced line from the first boats, had already formed, and were proceeding to take post behind a copse, when they heard the loud and quick clatter of horses' feet, and, as they supposed, of the Spanish lancemen, who are dextrous, and whose galling onset they had experienced the day before. Thus believing themselves discovered, and dreading an attack before their comrades had joined, they embarked precipitately, and abandoned their enterprise; but the alarm proved to be these large land-crabs, which at the sound of footsteps receded to their holes, and the noise was occasioned by their clattering over the dry leaves, which the English soldiers mistook for the sound of cavalry. In commemorating this defeat, considered highly miraculous, the inhabitants solemnly celebrated *la Fiesta de los cangrejos*, or the Feast of the crabs, held on the anniversary of the day,



when an immense solid gold land-crab was carried about in procession, equal in size to the head of a drum. This valuable and curious piece of plate, collected principally from the devotion of the people to this feast, and in celebration of their supernatural release, long held an undisturbed place in the sanctuary of the cathedral, but its massive weight was too tempting to the French when they arrived, who soon took off its hallowed character by passing it through the crucible.

Haina, being a near landing-place, has since been defended by a handsome fort on the E. side of the bay; and the main road ascending from the watering place has also been fortified by a regular breast-work; but the former was dismantled when Toussaint took possession of the country by order of the French Directory, and the latter is in decay and covered with wild indigo and guava trees.

For three leagues further is an iron-bound shore, with only one small landing place, a mile from the walls of the capital, to which it leads through a beautiful but gloomy avenue of the sabliers or sand-box trees. This spot is defended by a strong square

fort, called St. Jerome's, surrounded by a dry ditch, with massive walls 25 feet high, but not kept in good repair. Three small sixteens face the sea, that washes the lowest rampart, but the dyke is not filled from the level, being too high above the sea, which might easily be made to enter at high water. This was in possession of a French garrison when General Carmichael advanced against the city of St. Domingo, who, after cutting off the communication, ordered it to be stormed by Major Walker, but the preparations for the attack induced the commander to capitulate.

The harbour of the city of Santo Domingo is formed by the confluence of the rivers Isabella and Ozama, swelled by a variety of smaller ones, such as the Yavacao, Monte Plata, Savita, Guavanimó, Yuma, Duey, Haina Mosa, Naranjo, Yuca, Dajao, Higüero or Everton, flowing through the estate of that name; which united waters after laving the ramparts of the town, fall into the sea in a S. direction. The Isabella and Ozama, that mutually receive the above-mentioned smaller rivers, with a variety of other streamlets, unite in one general channel at about a league up from the capital, forming

a perfect Y, and fall down in a beautiful wood-girted channel, wide as the Thames at Chelsea, and retaining the name of the Ozama. This stream is a great convenience in bringing down provisions and produce from the interior ; a ferry is the conveyance over, and the dexterity and safety with which a herd of cattle is swum across, notwithstanding the current, is astonishing. The stream is strong in rainy seasons, and in issuing to the sea tinges it of a muddy colour regularly for several miles in front, which forms a curious contrast with the clear azure brine, that has no influence in point of taste so far as the upper end of the walls which are not three quarters of a mile from the entrance. The E. side of the bay projects into the ocean nearly a mile further than the opposite one, on which the town stands ; and at the extremity of this point once stood a small fort called Torrecilla, also dismantled by Toussaint. You keep this point close on board till you are quite past, when you steer across to the walls under the flag-staff, where the channel is. The bar has from 14 to 15 feet water according to the swell and freshes, but it is unsafe to enter except with a leading sea-breeze, which prevails periodically every

day, as the current impels strong on the bow of the ship, and drives her in an eddy on the flats that lie under the rocks to the E. Vessels of a larger draught anchor within the point, half a mile from the walls, in five and ten fathoms water, and in a direction parallel with the centre of the town. This anchorage is exposed to the south winds, which create a swell, but the holding ground is good. Here the French fleet had been at anchor 17 days when they were discovered by Admiral Duckworth.

Proceeding still E. is an iron-bound coast for three leagues, forming then an elbow called Caleta, where ships anchor a mile from the shore. Hence Point Caucedo ranges more S. but on doubling it, and steering again E. you come into a beautiful bay called St. Andrew's, where vessels anchor to receive cargo. Macoriz is a small navigable river three leagues higher; Socco, another, at the distance of two, with several inlets and creeks that equally produce woods.

The desert island of St. Catherine's is the next object in view, situated 20 leagues from the capital; its length from E. to W. is two leagues, and its breadth from N. to S. three-quarters. The passage to the Main is a mile

over, but will not receive more than 11 feet. In productions it resembles Beata.

Bearing N. N. W. and distant four leagues from the W. end of this island, on the Main, is the harbour of Cumayazo, with 15 feet on the bar, over which vessels proceed two miles up, secure from all winds; and the inlet being entirely of salt water, is much healthier than those harbours where it unites with fresh. Vessels of a larger draught anchor without, in 36 feet water, and float down their wood. In this laborious operation it may be a decided advantage to have a pilot and a gang of the natives, on account of their dexterity in diving, and handling and rafting logs, as working in the sun and water is deadly to Europeans, who, for the distempers they experience, have more to blame their own conduct, than the climate. The rafts are made with grass-ropes as adhering better, and the male logs, which do not swim, are floated by the buoyant palmetto tree, lashed to them.

Three leagues more E. and between Saona and St. Catherine's, we come into the harbour of Romana, the entrance of which is not well discerned till near, in consequence of the river winding at the mouth, and the banks

being of an equal height and resemblance to the rest of the shore. It is half a mile wide, and capable of receiving and securing fleets that generally anchor on the W. side, where the landing-place is most convenient. This is perhaps as romantic a scene as can well be conceived :—a beautiful river, formed as it were by some strong convulsion of nature; for the lofty sinuosities on each side correspond, and seem once to have been in perfect joints. The deep banks are hung with a variety of evergreens that half cover the sparkling granite, which is fringed marginally with the mangrove, and over-topped in the back by native trees ornamented with pendent creepers that adhere, flower and perfume, in spots where vegetation would be thought impossible. Nay sometimes the creepers are seen vegetating on the top of a tree 60 feet high, the seeds apparently carried there by the birds, and from them descends a long fibre or root, as even as a cord, the end of which rests on the ground to convey moisture to the elevated parent plant, which often covers the summit of the tree, where it first rested, tempering the fierce empire of a tropical hemisphere, and aiding to refresh and relieve the sight by the verdant shade it

creates. Two miles up the river is a delightful cascade of fresh water, falling from a pellucid bed, rippling over romantic rocks, and ending in a streamlet, crystal to such a degree that the finny race in gambols beneath the boat appear without a hiding place. On each side of the cliffs, near the source, are two winding paths that lead up to the dwellings, and to the inclined planes, or *Rombaderos*, down which the mahogany sold is precipitated, and from which elevated and rapid descent the logs sometimes receive a flaw, to the detriment of the shipper.

Two leagues higher is the river Chiabon, flowing through a long extent of country, but closed by a bar beyond five feet. Ships anchor opposite the sand bank in eight fathoms water, and tow off their woods, which descend four leagues down the river, whose margin is girted with wild scenery, and adorned with several beautiful verdant isles; the ascent however is rendered tedious by the rapidity of the current, and incommoded by the musquito and sand-fly.

The island of Saona faces the S. E. end of the main land of Hispanola. From the sea; it has a low long level appearance, is 21 miles in extent and seven wide. Its nearest



or N. W. part, is only half a league from Point Palmilla; the passage then widens, but is rocky, and a good pilot only carries seven feet through. The flats and rocks around the island, are perfectly visible, even at a great depth, from the limpid state of the water. Its best harbour is in the W. end, and both points are remarkable when near, from being distinguished by two elevations, as also by a range of small hills in the middle, facing the S., which temper the climate, and fertilize the soil, with gushing springs. It abounds in fish, and terrestrial and aquatic wild birds, of various species, particularly the pigeon, that here comes in annual migration, undisturbed, to produce her young; which done, she again returns with her brood, and in immense flocks to the other parts of the island, in search of those grains, seeds, and berries, on which she feeds, and proceeds periodically to those parts, where they are successively produced, and most abound. In their thick flight, they pass over the capital, generally in the month of July, where crowds of people line the flat roofs of the houses, to try their dexterity in killing them. It may, perhaps, be remembered, that in this month, when the British general



approached the ramparts, on which waved the white flag, he was surprized to hear a constant firing, but on enquiry, found that the half-starved Frenchmen were only snatching a supper from the clouds of wild pigeons, that flew across their lines.

Saona, called by the natives Adamancy, once boasted a cacique, and subjects independent of Haiti, and was afterwards held in the right of the body of Jesuits, who improved its fertile soil, and had several settlements and pasture-lands upon it. Had the industrious Dutch found this charming island, with the locality and advantages of the barren Curaçao, which it resembles in size, what a garden spot would it now be; suited as it is to every species of colonial productions, with forests lofty and romantic: at present it lies unnoticed and unknown, trodden only by a few solitary fishermen, who annually visit it, to collect tortoise-shell, or ensnare the wild cattle that abound and procreate in the solitude. In the dry seasons, these yet frequent the tanks and reservoirs, to which their progenitors were once led by the herdsman; when they formed, perhaps, part of the riches of their masters, of whose desolation there is now no

other trace, than a few ruins overtopped by shrubs, a row of fruit-trees, or an overgrown lime or logwood hedge, whose regular growth tells us that they were once tended by the fostering hand of man, but now stand a sad memorial of devastating time.

Bearing a little to the Southward of E., and in the middle of the great passage formed by Hispanola, and Puerto Rico, are two small islands, known to mariners by the names of Mona and Monito, (meaning the monkey and her cub). They are generally laid down in the latitude of 18. 10. The Mona is seven miles from E. to W., and nearly two wide. It, likewise, was once in good cultivation, and thought of sufficient consequence to be presented to Diego Columbus, by special grant from their Catholic Majesties, bearing the date of 1512, as a remuneration of his services. It is now the solitary range of wild goats, and so seldom approached, that I have known a shipwrecked sailor remain six months there, before he could communicate a signal to the many vessels that pass by. Monito is smaller, but nearer Hispanola, to which both islands have always been considered as annexed. Desecheo, erroneously called in our charts Za-

queo, is a barren rock, nearer the coast of Puerto Rico; and at the entrance of Mayaguez.

We will now resume our course round the main island, in the description of which it is intended to be more particular, as we have hitherto had but incorrect accounts of it, and as it bids fair to be more frequently visited for purposes of trade. To this we may add, as a stronger inducement, that the French navigators have recently made its survey an express study, in order to further the views of their government at home.

Opposite Saona is Yuma bay, formed to the E. by a bluff point called Muragua, into which falls the river of Higüey, after flowing past the town of that name. The bar has 12 feet water; the port is secure, but the anchoring place without, is open to the prevailing winds from the S. E. This part of the island is least adapted to culture; near the sea it is rocky, and the earth thin, but for this reason its abundant variety of woods, as well for ornament as construction, are of a closer grain, heavier, and susceptible of a better polish.

Till we double Cape Espada, a long low strip of land, shaped like the blade of a sword,

from which it derives its name, projecting and forming the most E. point in the island, and Cape Engaño three leagues more to the N., we meet nothing but a rocky coast, that scarcely gives admission to a fishing boat; but these capes once cleared, we enter on a beautiful extent of declivities, crowned with lofty and verdant forests, sloping gradually to the E., as far as the eye can reach. Macao, the first inlet, ships some wood, but is extremely dangerous, rocky, and open to the trade-winds.

Maymon and Nisabon, are small rivers that flow through delightful tracts of rich land, where one admires the creative hand of nature in her multiplied productions; but these are scenes not softened by a trait of industry, as the confined population has not yet reached this distant and solitary quarter and though there are treasures in these lofty and erect forests, the stroke of the wood-cutter is not often heard, nor is the voyager in steering round such an extent of coast, as we have already led him, cheered with the sight of a cottage from the sea, for the Spaniards seem averse from settling any where but in the interior of the country, as being better suited to their pastoral occupa-



tions, and as the air of the sea is by them considered unwholesome.

A large round hill, remarkable from resembling a sugarloaf, stands behind Cape Rafael, forming the S. side of the great Bay of Samana, which we now enter. In point of size, situation, productions, and communication with the interior of the country, this bay possesses incalculable advantages, which, in the hands of industry and enterprise, would make it one of the most interesting spots in all the West Indies. From the above mentioned point to the opposite side of the peninsula, is a distance of 18 miles, closed and guarded by a perfect bulwark of rocks and sands, that leave only the entrance clear, with a safe and deep channel, by keeping the shore of Samana close on the starboard, and passing between several detached islands to the left. The first of these, which crowns the natural mound we have mentioned as shutting up the other entries to the bay, is an elevated ridge of rocks, called Callo de los Levantados, but if fortified with a corresponding point on the main peninsula, would decidedly command the passage, which is not a mile across. The two small islands further up the bay, and equally capable of

being fortified, are remarkable for the resort of wild pigeons, where sacks of nestlings are often filled. The town is two leagues distant from the entrance; and opposite to it is another small island, near which you steer into the harbour, and anchor a little to the W. of the buildings, in a perfect bay, formed by this island.

Samana is a peninsula, and not an entirely detached island, as has generally been thought; a low swamp filled with reeds, but fordable, intervenes, but might be easily cut. The isthmus, according to the survey of a late engineer, is wider than generally laid down, and in this instance, as well as in many others, Lopez's late map, with which we are not generally acquainted, is more correct than that of Solano.

From the town to Savana la mar, a ferry boat crosses the bay, which is the point of communication with the capital. This beautiful bay, was called by Columbus De las Flechas, or arrows bay, from the quantity of armed natives he met with on first making it, but the Indian name is now retained, as it is in many other parts of the island. Its chief or cacique, Cayacoa, visited him, was friendly, and his widow afterwards became a

christian, under the name of Doña Ines de Cayacoa. This bay is 60 miles long, 18 wide, and bounded on every side by a romantic and fertile coast, suited to all the uses of trade, and has smaller ports for its convenience. In it whole fleets might ride at anchor and be secure, nay, on its bosom they might contend for the empire of the seas, their extended lines might encounter, pursue and be pursued. It may some time be thought a safe refuge for the windward fleets, that leave their stations to escape the hurricanes, the influence of which seldom reaches so far down. Its waters are increased by those of the great river Yuna, which, after being joined by the Camu, meanders navigable through the rich plains of La Vega Real, Cotuy, &c., passing through an extent of nearly 200 miles, and receiving increase from upwards of 40 smaller rivers, that cross the country in several directions, with advantages of locality and intercourse, almost unequalled. Ineffectual measures were lately taken by the French, to build the new city of Napoleon, higher up than the old town of Samana, but the ground laid out was never cleared. The bay underwent a very particular survey by Admiral Lessegues after

his defeat, who, perhaps, thought he might soften his own fate, by carrying home to his imperial master this piece of service done to his country.

The French appear to have been much more sensible of the local advantages of Samana than the Spaniards; and tried, previously to the general cession of the island, to get it into their possession. Considering it as the key to the Mexican gulph, from its windward and commanding situation, and as the central point of all the islands and south continents, their original design was to get ceded to them, a tract of land to be cut off by a line drawn 12 leagues inland of Dejabon, to cape Rafael, including the bay of Samana, which measure was strongly supported by those of most influence at home; and seemed to be justified by their arrogance, as on the gaining side, at least, they thought their interests could never be separated from those of the Spaniards. It was besides unsafe, they said, to trust the inactive and pusillanimous Spaniards, with such an interesting point as the bay of Samana, and their own planters required lands to extend their already confined plantations. This scheme was long agitated in their cabinet,



and was certainly founded on the deepest, though partial, policy; for if it had been carried into effect, it would have given them possession of the river Yuna and its advantages, Dejabon and Santiago, with their valuable pastures and plains, the seaports to the N., the rich mines of Cibao, and those of La Vega Real, with her plains, &c., in short, the choice tobacco lands in the island, and its best population, besides the command of so valuable a bay. The realisation of this project was left, however, to the administration of Godoy; ideal lines were not then drawn, all entered into one general cession; and while that wretched patchwork treaty of 1795, gave him the title of the Prince of Peace, in addition to the many he already enjoyed, it deprived its ancient possessors of a home, and his country of this key-stone to the entire arch of the West India islands, and greatest check on the whole of the S. American Archipelago. Of this the French were fully sensible to the last, and it had been so completely depicted to their ministers, and by them relished, that there was scarcely an officer in the late army and administration, who had not lands and coffee establishments in Samana, where he already

saw, in the panorama of his imagination, fleets, cities, and arsenals arise.

About 50 years ago, orders were sent out by the Spanish government, to people this valuable quarter; and Don Francisco Rubio, the then governor of the island, obtained some settlers from the Canaries, a people hardy, industrious, and best suited to the climate; but they were too few for such a large circuit; lands were indeed given them, but neither negroes nor implements of tillage; so that this attempt to colonize, like so many others that have marked the parsimony of the Spanish crown, would have degraded even the enterprise and pocket of a private individual.

Thus have the resources and advantages of this spot remained unimproved, and buried in neglect. There is not, perhaps, a situation on this side the ocean, so proper for an arsenal or dock yard, with the union of so many requisites, as this astonishing bay. Its margin and rivers are skirted with the finest and most lofty trees for building; such as the pine and laurel for masts; the capá, nearly impervious to worms, and particularly suited to sheathing; the chicharon and sabicua for keels; mahogany, cedar,

and a variety of others proper for the frame and every part of construction; all which may be felled, in the greatest abundance, at the very door of the builder. Several vegetable productions supply him with pitch; and the fibrous and pliant creepers and grass, with a variety of rope. The bowels of the earth present him with iron, tin, and copper, the principal necessities for the foundry or arsenal; and advantageous and safe locality crowns the whole.

Doubling Cape Cabron, and steering W. along the lofty and apparently barren shore of Samana, the small river of Limon is all we meet particularly interesting; it has a good inlet, flows through rich coffee grounds, and has the best woods for building.

Coasting round la Bahia Escosesa or Scotts bay, a dangerous rocky place, deserted, and uncheered by a human vestige; excepting Estero Grande that faces the N. E. on the W. side of the bay, stands old Cape Francois, an elevated and rugged mountain, discovered from a great distance. From thence to Puerto Plata, is an extent of coast of about 60 miles, the course of which is rather to the N. of W. In this distance stands Balsamo bay, formed by the two small capes of

Roca to the E., and Macoris to the W., and in it falls the small river of St. John's. Puerto Viejo, also called Macoris, admits 14 feet; it is unsafe for a stranger to enter without a pilot, and this is the first mahogany port used on this side the island, though the coast generally abounds in the best grained woods of all kinds.

Puerto de Plata was discovered by Columbus in his first voyage, and set the eager hopes of his crew afloat. The talky white capped mountain that commands the town, they thought glittered with massive silver, which would be, to their exalted imaginations, more than an ample compensation for all their toils; the most moderate, however, thought it snow; yet they called it the silver mount, and the port below still retains the name. The admiral was highly pleased with the situation, and in his second voyage, accompanied by his brother Diego, he surveyed it, and laid out the plan that afterwards served for the town. The entrance is narrow but safe, facing due N., might be easily defended, and the anchorage is in three fathoms water. This is the principal shore-settlement found on the N. side, its neighbourhood is rich in every species of



woods, and wants nothing but industry, and the guarantee of trade, to improve its dormant resources. There are several bye ports that are convenient for small craft, but in consequence of its northern aspect, and the periodical prevalence of the winds, the best loading season here commences when it ends on the other side of the island.

The coast now inclines more to the N. till we come to Puerto Caballo, a place of little note, but remarkable for being that into which one of the three discovering vessels called the *Pinta*, commanded by Francisco Martin Puizon, took refuge, when he was separated from the admiral, then also in distress from the winds they encountered, and under the greatest anxiety of mind from supposing his consort had perished. Overjoyed, however, to find him here, he called it *Puerto de gracia*, which name it has, apparently, since lost.

Opposite to this part of the coast, and at a distance of 14 leagues N., is that dangerous shoal, now called the square handkerchief, which the Spaniards appropriately called *Abrojos*, or, 'open your eyes.'

Round Point Isabella, and in a kind of deep bite, once stood the famous city of that

name, where the immortal Columbus made his first settlement, giving it the name of his august princess and mistress, who had seconded his splendid enterprize, and which he was ambitious of acknowledging by this first testimony of his gratitude. He entered this little bay in the night, as it were by chance, seeking shelter from the inclement elements. The next morning having anchored in 14 fathoms water, he was agreeably struck with the beauty and romantic situation of the harbour, a little open to the N. W. and commanded in the back by a beautiful range of hills, one extremely elevated, with rich slopes, and watered by a beautiful river to which he also gave the name of Isabella.

The date of the foundation of this place was the 6th of January, 1494, which was the festival of the Epiphany, when in a chapel erected for that purpose a solemn mass was celebrated by thirteen priests. The public buildings were carried on with the utmost rapidity, and composed principally of free stone. The private houses were formed of wood and covered with palmetto and other leaves, which they found used by the Indians. These people appeared highly pleased, were filled with admiration, and dis-

played on every occasion the highest respect for the Spaniards. They assisted, served, and obeyed them, and parted with their aliments and utensils for any trifle that was given them. Judges and magistrates were appointed, Pedro Fernandez Covonel was made Chief Justice, and Antonio de Torres invested with the command of the fort. Thus was formed the first city founded by Europeans on this side the ocean.

A particular and boasted privilege granted by the King to the Cabildo and other persons of eminent rank forming the government of this place, was, the permission granted them on great festival days, to receive the sacrament in the public churches with swords by their sides, a distinction not even allowed to the European Caballero.

On the other side of the harbour is a beautiful savannah, that faces the N. skirted with handsome woods. This infant city boasted for some years the tutelary patronage of the Queen, enjoyed a number of grants, privileges and distinguished honours, had increased in buildings and population, yet though we can trace in Italy the ruins of cities that existed many centuries ago, the inquisitive traveller going here in search of haunts found depicted

on the page of history, is astonished to find they have scarcely outlived two. The half o'er-hanging arch, the one-armed cross, or mouldering pedestal, sometimes peep through the rank and luxuriant glade, or the spreading guava and wild indigo, that appear the greatest weeds and nuisances in the country, and particularly mark the deserted traces of former culture. Even the road leading to the scite of the ancient town, and which once knew a degree of bustle, is not now passable, till one's conductor has cleared the way with his manchete.

Monte Christi is 12 leagues lower down; in its charter it is called St. Fernando de Monte Christi, and on its confines the great river Yaque, called by Columbus the Gold River, falls into the sea with a second branch into Mansenillo Bay, after flowing from the inland town of Santiago through a long extent of plains and tobacco lands. Monte Christi is a large promontory that comes into the sea, where for many years the Spanish monthly packets used to land their letters from Europe in their way to the other settlements. Opposite is a small cluster of islands called The Seven Brothers.

Mansenillo Bay is round the point facing



the W. where the Spanish lines on the N. side terminate. It receives the river Dejabon, but in the present uncultivated state of the country is of little moment, at least till those inhabitants have returned who receded from the early incursions of the Haitians. The present good understanding that exists, and the security afforded by the change in the government, will again soon people the frontiers, which from their cattle formerly commanding a good price in the French lines, had become interesting parts of the country.

As it is incumbent on the trader, as well from the islands as direct from England, to be well acquainted with those seas which he may have occasion to navigate in his commercial undertakings with the Spaniards, I have subjoined for his information, in Appendix (A) a description of the principal trading ports on that part of the coast which lies opposite Hispanola, beginning from Cape Vela, and extending to the Oroonoko.

All the principal bays, ports, and detached islands, that form the coast of Hispanola, being now fully described, or at least sufficiently for its secure access and its advantages of trade, I will proceed to give general outlines of its population, towns, productions, curiosities,

customs and manners, &c. which, added to some general remarks, derived from individual observation or authentic sources, will close my essay on the island, and be succeeded by similar researches on the Spanish Main.

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#### CHAP. IV.

SOIL AND RESOURCES COMPARED WITH  
THOSE OF HAITI — COUNTRY — VALLEYS  
— CLIMATE — PLAINS — BRANDING CATTLE  
— WOODS DESCRIBED.

IN no part of the world has indulgent nature dealt out her gifts with a more plentiful hand than here. Whatever plant, either necessary for the sustenance of man, or contributing to his luxuries; whether brought from an European, or an East Indian climate, here flourishes and finds a congenial soil, which seems composed of layers of the leaves and branches of trees, that have rotted for successive ages, and improved it with their rich

deposit. More generous and beneficent still; her creative power has stored the bowels of the earth with valuable metals, and besides bestowing plenty on its surface, has adorned and diversified it with valleys of Arcadian delight, and mountains that ennoble the landscape, and temper the climate with a variety of fertilizing rills that issue from their bosoms, flowing with sinuous course through plains of luxuriant grass, and forming rivers which might become abundant channels for circulating the produce of art and industry.

We have witnessed in our own days the importance which the French have attached to their old division, and the immense efforts they have uniformly made to regain it; nor is the Spanish side comparatively less valuable, though uncultivated, particularly at present; for, improvident as the Haitian possessors of the former are, and little thoughtful of the future, from a consciousness that their lands are held by a tenure often depending on the whim of an officer, and moreover are liable to the devastations of contending armies, they attend not to the increase of planting; the pruning knife seldom checks the rank luxuriance of the coffee-tree, or the hoe extirpates the choaking weeds; and

these causes combine to enhance the value of the eastern side of the island.

The tillers, forced to exchange implements of industry for those of war, cannot cultivate and gather those crops which in the course of trade go in exchange for the merchant's goods, and the loss falls on the shipper.

The first years of Haitian independence gave indeed a gleam of prosperity, for the country was in that secondary stage of forwardness in which the French left it, and from which it has since gradually declined; for it is a fact known to all planters, that the coffee-tree, in such a forced soil, seldom outlives twelve years, and it is not possible that the man who farms an estate by the public outcry, will think of future increase when his tenure is insecure. Then, the fertile and virgin slopes of the E. end, its pastures for cattle, its superior streams and rich mines, will give it a preponderance, and thither even from some of our own drained islands settlers will resort, as some from Curaçao have already done to Samana.

Many of the tracts of land in Hispanola are yet held by companies in common right, depending on the amount furnished by each individual in the first purchase, the receipt or

certificate of which forms the title or deed, and is regularly transmitted from father to son. Their herds thus pasture in common; each proprietor is allowed to cut what wood he pleases, to till what ground he pleases, and to act in all respects as sole owner of the whole, though possessing perhaps a comparatively small share. No one however is allowed to interfere with establishments formed or fenced in, nor by enacted laws, can any person enclose a tank or watering-place, all of them being left open to the general convenience of the cattle. In former times, as a means of encouraging agriculture and the pursuits of industry, the government lent to many individuals sums of money from the treasury to build houses, purchase slaves, &c. Then the property was mortgaged for the sum received, and an annual interest of six per cent. paid; this was called *tributos*. In the act of general cession of the island, to the disgrace of the ministry who made the treaty, these loans were not annulled in favour of the inhabitants; and property, though destroyed by the inroad of enemies, and the general depreciation of estates, yet continued liable. The French thus entering into the rights of the government who preceded them, exacted

personally from many of the reduced natives the refunding of these amounts, but refused the estates which they were intended to cover. This arbitrary proceeding rendered them detested, and opened a source of implacable animosity.

The area or superficies of Hispanola is intersected in every direction by small cordilleras or mountains, forming valleys of an astonishing size and verdure, and thus affording a greater difference of climate than is easily met with in an equal extent of territory or polar elevation. The highest are those of Cibao, said to be between five and six thousand feet above the level of the sea. The valley of La Vega Real (Royal Field) is by far the largest and finest in the island. Watered by the Yaque on the West side, it extends beyond the old French lines; and by the Yuna to the E. it projects to the head of the Bay of Samana, having on its surface an immense number of smaller rivers, streams and rivulets, which cross it in various ways, and which in a populous and trading country, where canals cost so much, would be of incalculable advantage. This valley may be said to extend a length of 80 leagues on a width of 10, and in some parts 15, and most

particularly attracted the notice and admiration of Columbus and his followers, who when they were first led here, by the natives from Isabella, could scarcely give bounds to their rapture.

To the W. of the capital is the valley of Banis, that extends from Nisao to Ocoa, where the pasture is good, but not so well watered as those of the other parts of the island, an inconvenience here sensibly felt by the cattle in dry months. Near it is the valley of Azua, next that of St. John's, or the ancient Maguana, and divided from that of St. Thomas by the river Neyba. Bordering on the centre part of the French lines of demarcation, come those of Hinch, Libon, Guava, and several others; but it would be impossible to individualize all those secondary ranges for cattle in a country where nature seems to have lavished her gifts, and of which scarcely a ride of twenty miles does not give a pleasing and diversified succession of hill and dale.

It is astonishing that in places so contiguous there should exist such a striking vicissitude of climate both in heat and rain. The plains of Banica border on the more elevated districts of St. John's and St. Thomas's, all situated in a central part of the island; and the degree of



heat there is so perceptibly greater, as to cause a diminutive size in the inhabitants, compared with those of the two latter places. Still colder than either climate is that of the valley of Costanza, divided only from St. John's by a high ridge of mountains, lying more to the N. in the jurisdiction of la Vega Real, perfectly enclosed like an amphitheatre, by surrounding hills; and which remained for many years unknown to the Spaniards, after the discovery. Meat is there preserved five or six days untainted; in the morning a hoar frost is remarkable throughout the year, and fire, disused elsewhere, is in that vale a welcome comfort.

To the E. of the capital, and leading to Seibo, are those immense plains pertinently called *Los Llanos*, where the eye wanders unobstructed over an extent of grassy surface as level as the sea, but occasionally diversified by a natural clump of trees that seem planted by the hand of man, to resemble a park. They are however nothing more than groups of small trees and shrubs that have grown spontaneously on the margin of a spring, or collection of water, formed by a small hollow, and round which they thrive to the extent fertilized by the oozing moisture of the pool.

Here the ranging cattle seek shelter and refreshment from the mid-day heat, and to the bending boughs the weary and parched traveller suspends his hammock, which always forms part of his equipage.

This astonishing plain constitutes almost a sixth of the island, extending nearly to the E. end, a distance of more than 90 miles on a width of about 30. On it, cattle of more than a hundred owners pasture in herds, and are annually collected, counted, and the young branded, at the season when the calf cannot mistake its mother. The dexterity with which the herdsman on horseback, with a lance in his hand, separates one of his master's brand from the rest, is wonderful. In the dry season when the blade is long and rank, it is customary to burn all the grass on the plains, which serves as an annual manure, for in that season the cattle generally take to the forests in search of the herbage the sun has not had power to parch. The operation of burning is performed by setting fire to the most eastern part of the tract, from whence the wind regularly blows; it spreads in long and succeeding volumes, frequently making the traveller recede, and effacing the path

through which he has been accustomed to journey.

There is a singular and not unpleasing difference between an European forest and one of this country, for the trees, besides growing to an immense height, are free from those smaller branches that spring from the lower part of the trunk, so that the planter who prepares his grounds, and has already freed them from the smaller tufts of intervening under-wood, sees over his head a canopy of branching verdure, impervious to the solar ray, supported by majestic and straight columns, (from which his fowling-piece can scarcely drop the pigeon,) interwoven with the creeper, windband, or flowering convolvulus; and here the architect might find models for a dome, or the colonnade of a temple, for which the groves of palm tree, and so many others, would serve as peristyles. To a connoisseur, the species of indigenous tree that most abounds, indicates the quality of the soil, and when a coffee slope is to be chosen, as soon as the bois d'orme (a species of the elm) and certain kinds of the palmetto are traced, he seldom turns over the strata with which the tract is covered, to judge of its fertility.

But before we proceed, it may not be thought improper to particularize some of the principal rivers that, like veins, circulate the means of plenty through this valuable body; for besides being the great sources of agriculture, they serve also to convey its products. Hence a slight sketch may interest the curious, and illustrate our ideas of the locality of the country.

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## CHAP. V.

### RIVERS, STREAMS, LAKES, &c.

THOUGH mention has already been made of some of the most distinguished rivers, several others equally deserve notice. Haina is the first we cross, riding W. from the capital, at the distance of three leagues. It takes its rise on an estate called Guamitas, at the foot of that beautiful ridge of mountains, which tower often midway begirt with clouds, and bound the prospect from the city. These elevations are particularly remarkable

from the sea, opposite the harbour, and serve to close the view that intervenes by giving shade and limits to the perspective. This streamlet from its source, gradually enlarges, holding course through the valleys formed by the hills, and falls navigable into the bay of that name, which we have before described. It abounds in excellent wild fowl of several kinds, also fish, particularly the snook and bastard mullet, that may be called the salmon and trout of the West Indies. Its margin was once studded with plantations of cocoa, sugar, indigo, cotton, &c., but now is overgrown with wild shrubbery; particularly one estate which was called *La Hurca*, or Hulk, from the owner's sending annually to Seville, a ship of that description, laden with the fruits of his own grounds; at present, like the rest, it stands forlorn, and only sends to market, vegetables, or a few kegs of syrop to distil into taffia. From the city, this neighbourhood affords a delightful and short excursion, abounding in a variety of rural scenery and game.

Nigua, two leagues lower, draws its source near the preceding river, rolling over a beautiful bed of sand and pebble, for a distance of nine leagues, in such a serpentine form,

that in going a distance of two miles, you cross it five times, and in riding on its borders, a mouldering aqueduct, reservoir, or rent sugar boiler, peeping through the foliage of intrusive shrubbery, tells us, this was the first seat of European industry in the new world. Oviedo mentions that in the earliest ages of the discovery, cultivation had particularly centred here; that the fleets annually went home laden with its productions; that its settlements wore the appearance of progressive culture, and the inhabitants that of ease and hospitality; but in vain does the traveller now seek a trace; detached hamlets, consisting of wood cutters, tilling only the vegetables requisite for their own consumption, are all he meets; the rich possessors of farms and herds in this quarter, have removed, and left them, perhaps, to moulder and dwindle, in the hands of a confidential solitary slave; poverty has usurped the seat of affluence, and weeds, the fields that once smiled under the tillage of man. The hopes of renewing these scenes, however, begin to cheer the drooping spirits of the natives; they see in embryo the prospect of enlivening plenty, and are filled with just sentiments of gratitude to the cooperators in their cause,

which it rests but with the English nation to foster and improve. This river, in its progress to the sea, receives the united waters of smaller streams, and forming a great convenience for floating woods on its surface, is fordable unless when swelled by the freshes, but in the dryest months, the stream is very low.

The river Nisao flows, in nearly a parallel line, seven leagues lower, and the intermediate grounds are extremely beautiful, particularly a forest called Naranjos, not crowned with those lofty and corpulent trees which mark the primæval state of the country, but thick, with a variety of smaller ones, intermixed with flowering and fruit trees, that designate the spot where once plantations existed.

Neyba we have already remarked; and in the district of Azua, which could once boast the residence of the great conqueror of Mexico, are found the rivers Mulas, Tavará, Mijo, little Yaque, with several of a less size. Vegetation in this quarter is extremely fine; and here are produced oranges, in flavour, comparable with those of Puerto Rico, decidedly the best in the West Indies. Since the dreadful shocks that were felt in 1751,



when the concussion of nature was so great, as to produce several visible rents in the highest elevations, mineral waters have burst from the mountains of Viajama, that indicate they contain sulphur.

Several rivulets flow through the fairy valley of St. John's, which the philanthropic traveller cannot pass, but with poignant feelings, when he considers that there Bobadilla destroyed the unfortunate queen Anacona, with her friends, at a feast; in her became extinct that line of chiefs, who had long governed this great kingdom. The humane and just Isabella, ever tender and mindful of the wrongs of these her new subjects, and of whose cruel treatment she (though late) was sensible, after endeavouring to provide for their protection, by several wise regulations enacted in their favour, but, unfortunately, too often confided to the cruel and oppressive for execution, was so particularly struck with this act of inhuman outrage, on a defenceless princess, exaggerated by being perpetrated in the moments of confidence and conviviality, that, on her death bed, she demanded vengeance of her surviving consort, against the man who had abused the trust reposed in him, of protecting their in-

fant but favourite colony, and had repaid their labours with such ingratitude.

So great, however, is the variety and multiplicity of rivers and mountains, that it were, perhaps, monotonous to dwell further upon the subject; the curious we will only ask to cast their eye over the map by Solano, or, in preference, over that of Don Tomas Lopez, since made by orders of the Spanish government, and published in Madrid twenty-five years ago; both, however, have several topographical errors, and some hills and rivers misnamed.

As a peculiar curiosity, I cannot refrain mentioning a singular lake, situated near the south part of the French line of demarcation, a little inland, near the town of St. John's, bordering on the Indian division of Caquani, and forming one side of the beautiful valley of Neyba. This sheet of water is known by the name of La Laguna de Henriquillo, or the Lake of little Henry, from its being the seat to which the Indian chief, of that name, retired, after his defeat, and where he was captured by the Spaniards. This bason of water is upwards of 18 leagues in circumference; and though its nearest margin is placed eight leagues from the sea,

in which distance, several considerable mountains intervene, the same flux and reflux of the coast is there felt; the water being perfectly salt, and of the same specific weight and appearance as that of the ocean. The fishes are also of a similar kind, and equal in size, such as the shark, seal, porpoise, &c.; but the whale was never remarked. In the possession of the author is the spinal bone of a shark, taken in this lake, that shews it was of a size not usually met with at sea. In the centre is a small island of nearly two leagues long, and one wide, containing springs of fresh water, and abounding in wild goats and game. Of this romantic and picturesque spot, it is impossible to give an adequate idea; did it possess only the relief of Italian villas and spires to contrast with the solitary, but majestic forests, that surround its verdant and intervening plains, it would form the most interesting prospect the eye could contemplate, or pencil pourtray. A little to the N. W., is another much smaller, called by the French, *Etang du Cul du Sac*.

## CHAP. VI.

ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY, AND STROKE OF  
THE SUN AND MOON.

To convey an idea of the aspect of this country, would rather require the fancy of the poet, or of the painter, than the narrative of the traveller; for to mix the beautiful with the sublime, to depict shores lined with the mangrove, often bending under adhering oysters;—scattered fields of luxuriant coffee, bearing flowers to rival the white jessamin, and berries the coral cherry;—the cocoa grove;—the light coloured cane and guinea grass patch, intermixed with the useful plantain, waving bamboo, and cocoa nut;—the orange walk, bounded by tufts of palmettoes;—wild shrubbery, in perpetual green, confined by the aloes hedge, or shut in, by native forests, covered with flowering wood-bines of varied tints and continual odour, and watered with the gushing rills, that fall in natural cascades from the mountains, crowned with deep overhanging woods, interspersed with plains and natural meadows;

—grottoes and abrupt precipices; these diversified yet harmonizing features of nature might all equally swell the scene, but bid defiance to the numbers of the one, or the canvass of the other.

There is no Aurora or twilight as in England, the sun seems to sink hastily beneath the horizon, the lingering and gradual approach of night is not experienced; there is a quick succession from light to darkness, without any apparent medium. The moonlight nights are extremely fine, charming, and serene; but the empire of the queen of night, is by no means harmless, for, besides reflecting a sensible degree of warmth, when the head is exposed and uncovered, it frequently occasions what is called a stroke of the moon, which creates a migraine, and pain of a most acute nature, that nearly drives the sufferer to distraction. A stroke of the sun, or *coup de soleil*, is also a painful and dangerous sensation; for the part of the face or head thus smitten, swells and burns with a crimson heat, often accompanied with intense fever, the skin peels off, and it is not unusual to see the European soldier, under a fatiguing march, throw away his firelock, and fling himself despondent on the

glass, conceiving it to be the first fatal symptom of the dreaded fever of the climate. The remedy is, however, simple and efficacious, and particularly enters into the department of the officious female creole. She fills with fresh water a long phial, such as we generally use for preserving pickles, and placing a piece of distended linen on the wide mouth, applies it to the seat of pain, and in a few minutes the water bubbles, and seems to boil with the extracted fire.

Raynal's general description of the island of Hispanola, would appear illusively romantic to one who has not been able to realize its truth, and yet Charmilly acknowledges that the French, is by no means comparable to the Spanish division, for, added to the varied productions it can boast, in general the climate is a perpetual spring, from four in the afternoon till nine the next day, and happily for its otherwise parched inhabitants, the intermediate time, subject to the force of a perpendicular sun, is generally mitigated by the periodical breezes that seldom fail, and greatly assisted by the contiguity of the mountains, sheltered situations, cool houses, &c.; nor does any thing designate the goodness of the climate more, than the health,

robust state, and fecundity of the indigenes, who live at a distance from the stagnant waters; added to the size, thick foliage, and variety of the forests and plants.

The rains are periodical as in the other islands, but the heaviest are in May and June, when the rivers swell to an astonishing degree, and often sweep away the labours of the wood-cutter. Hurricanes are seldom experienced; when they occur, they are preceded by a close sultriness of the atmosphere, in which the clouds, charged with a vaporous lightning, lower, and portend a deluge. The heavens seem to rend in continual blasts, and the earth emits a deep and hollow sound. The birds flit hastily through the troubled sky, whilst the affrighted negro sees his cabin, plantain grove, and other objects of his care and toil, in a moment levelled with the ground. Virgil himself might here have found materials to heighten the sublimity of his tempest.

The thermometer rises, in the plains, to 96, but in the mountains generally stands from 72 to 78. The highest mountains, particularly those of Cibao, are estimated at 6000 feet above the level of the sea; they tend to moderate the violence of the winds, vary the



temperature of the air, and multiply the resources of human industry. The Spaniards compute their territory here, to contain 3200 square leagues, of which 400 are mountains, and the rest divided into valleys and plains of various extent.

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## CHAP. VII.

### SPECIES OF WOODS, VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS, &c.

IN consequence of agriculture not having yet resumed its accustomed channel, mahogany is at present the staple export commodity of the country. It is general throughout island, but more frequent in certain tracts, and is, perhaps, now found more abundant, in consequence of its having been, by the old Spanish laws, contraband to cut it, a prohibition that still exists in Cuba. Mahogany or swietenia, generally classed with the deœandria, is a tall, straight, beautiful tree, with flowers of a reddish or saffron

colour, the fruit oval of the size of a lemon, and resembling galls, but of no use. The tree, when grown in a barren soil, is hard, of a close grain, and more finely variegated than when it proceeds from low damp lands, it is then more porous, pale, and open grained. In the country it is used for joists, flooring, shingles, and for the construction of vessels, &c., and I have seen its hollowed trunk, form a canoe to contain 100 men.

The oak, though of the same species as that of England, differs in appearance, is not found so frequently as the mahogany, but is more lofty, though not so thick. It is, however, more solid, and better suited for rafters of buildings, mill timber, keels, &c., as it furnishes beams from 60 to 70 feet long. The hacana resembles the oak, but is preferable in many cases, from being less corruptible.

The Marchineel tree affords a wood of a beautiful appearance for furniture, shaded like marble with green and yellow veins; but in consequence of its containing a kind of white acrid juice, with which the Indians used to poison their arrows, it is dangerous to cut it down, or saw it into planks, for the smallest particle of wet, dust, or juice falling into the

eye, produces inflammation, that often ends in blindness, and obliges the workman to keep his eyes covered with a gauze; yet it is sometimes made up, and nothing can exceed the brilliancy of polish, or variety of colouring, this wood produces. The fruit, resembling an apple, is poisonous, and the antidote is salt, to which even cattle have been noticed to recur from instinct.

Fustic is more frequent near Azua and Banis; it forms a handsome tree with a small leaf; but several other yellow dye woods are remarked, yet unknown in trade, particularly one that approaches nearer to green, and is well deserving of experiment.

*Lignum vitæ* or *guaiacum* is usual along the coast, of two kinds, one bearing a blue flower, and the other white dented; but the choicest in trade is that which, when cut, presents a dark green colour, and grows in arid lands. It exceeds its usual size when flourishing on the sides of rivers, but owing to its quicker growth, it is not so good as that reared in sandy barren lands, nor of such specific weight and durability. The *quiebra Hacha* (break-axe), or iron-wood, of a similar species, has the peculiarity of petrifying when stuck in the damp ground. The lig-

num vitæ affords a gum, well known in medicine, which requires no other preparation than being gathered from the bleeding tree, and the natives use the bark instead of soap for washing, in which process it gives a good lather.

The capá is particularly suited to the sheathing of vessels, from its being strong, and almost impervious to worms, a bottom of this wood being equal to four of pine. The Spanish vessels are generally built with it, and they greatly outlast all others. In the English islands its virtues are not unknown, and it is often in considerable demand. The laurel is used for the frames of vessels, and often for masts, which from their pliability are suited even to schooners. The pine also is abundant, particularly on the N. side, where whole forests are found; when diminished in weight, by bleeding, it is highly serviceable for all purposes of the ship-builder, but cannot be used for those of domestic utility in the country, in consequence of its being the particular lodging of the wood-ant, one of the most destructive insects in the West Indies. This animal is to be dreaded in dry-good stores, as it delights most in the soft deal of packing cases, which it enters, and perfo-

rates through every fold of the goods it contains, till it finds egress on the other side. The dwarf pine is very combustible, and, when cut in long strips, serves as a substitute for candles, and by its light, as by that of a lighted torch, prawns, fish, &c. are taken in the rivulets at night. The French for that reason call it *Bois Chandelle*.

Braziletto wood is pretty plentiful down the coast, but has not yet become an article of general trade, owing to a want of encouragement. The satin wood of the white, and yellow species also abounds, but is much heavier than that of the East Indies, has an agreeable smell, and bears a much better polish, so as not to require varnish. By the Spaniards it is called Espino, or Thorn, from those that grow on the bark to a considerable size. It bears the same proportionate value as mahogany.

The Seiba, or Cotton Tree, is the largest of all the vegetable productions; and the lightest and most sizeable canoes are made of its trunk. It affords a species of down that resembles cotton of a short staple, and is used by the Spaniards for beds; it has also been tried with success in the making of hats. The wild sloe is a tree of great use, it has partly

the flexible properties of the ash, is extremely hard, and was one of the many woods used by the Indians for bows. The Jagua produces a fruit thought by the natives a delicacy, its juice is clear as water, yet the stain on linen is of an indelible jet, and serves for dye or marking. They use it also in baths as a strong bracer or astringent, and it serves to remove weariness from the bones. The tree is tall and straight, the wood firm but supple, and makes the best lances. Cedars of the white and red species, are common, and the lance wood, (*bois de lance*) serves for billiard-cues. Excellent woods for the axle-trees of carriages might be collected in these forests. The walnut tree is frequent in the district of Bayaguana, and particularly noticed by Oviedo.

The Genepa, Sablier, or Sand Box Tree, of no commercial utility, affords a thick gloomy shade unfavourable to vegetation, though often used as a hedge, from its pointed thorns, and particularly well suited to overhang a road. The fruit resembles a perfect sand-box, of a round form, with little raised regular divisions in shape such as we give a cake by means of a patty-pan, which terminate in small fibres in the centre, through which the sand filters, and drops into the

inside. The traveller is sometimes startled in riding under them, by a noise resembling the discharge of a pistol; but finds it is the fruit that has exploded and shivered in a thousand pieces, which must be owing to their containing a degree of fixed air, or to some other physical cause which I never yet heard defined. The sap is of a singularly acrid nature, and falling in the eye produces blindness.

The Ebony of two kinds, green and black, is met with in great abundance; also the Grana-dillo, with several other woods of a similar species, and equally suited to turnery or staining. Of these the Indian names only are known, and they grow unnoticed in the midst of the scarcely trodden forests.

To describe the many various species of the palm tree, would rather require the skill of a botanist, and the scientific classification of Linnæus. They are the greatest ornament of the woods, and serve many of the useful purposes of man. The grains of some, serve for the sustenance of birds, and the fattening of hogs; the leaves, in form like a fan, or in branches like the Arabian palm, serve equally to thatch houses, plat hats, baskets, &c. The plank taken from the outside of the tree is ex-



tremely hard, almost incorruptible, and when cleared of the pulpy substance that forms the centre, serves for durable pallisadoes, casing for houses, and other necessary purposes in the erection of a cottage.

The Palmetto, or Mountain Cabbage, proffers a valuable vegetable, milky white, and, with appropriate sauces, much relished by Europeans. It grows on the top of an erect and equal tree, frequently 70 feet high, and it is a pity to see its ornamental and waving foliage cut down, for the sake of the perishable production with which it is crowned, or the wild honey with which its sides often teem. Its annual growth is singularly marked by a small dark circle at about the regular distance of three inches, progressively to its upper branches, which spread like an umbrella on the summit, and these lines indicate the exact time when the tree attained its growth. The peeling that envelopes the cabbage falls periodically every month to the ground, and being about three feet long, and one wide, makes a valuable covering for the roofs of houses. The large cocoa nut is also a species of the palm, and beautifully ornamental.

But of a more singular family of the palmetto, is a dwarf tree of that genus, the juice

squeezed from the grains or berries of which) when applied to the temple and back of the neck, has the peculiar property of raising depressed spirits, and giving an exhilaration not before felt. By those natives to whom it is known it is called *alegra cogote* or enlivener of the brain, the part it most particularly affects, and it will shortly be introduced into England under the hopes of becoming useful in cases of melancholic lunacy.

The sugar cane, cotton and coffee plants, have met with such general descriptions from so many other pens, that we will barely say, this appears to be their most congenial soil, where they grow in the greatest luxuriance.

The use of cocoa the Spaniards adopted from the Indians, and in all their possessions both at home and abroad, it now forms a principal part of their nutrition. They found it also used as a circulating medium, and 300 grains were equal to a quarter of a dollar. The cocoa tree is a plant of a very delicate nature, requires the shade of other trees to defend it from the too ardent rays of the sun, and great care to free it from the worms that prey upon its bark. The monkey, squirrel, agouti, and deer, are particularly fond of its tender fruit and leaves, and on the trees of

the main continent, often commit devastation, but in the few cocoa walks in Hispanola, they are not felt. Parrots also in a plantation of this kind, are equally to be dreaded as in a corn-patch; but are easier found out by the planter, in consequence of their loud garrulity when they light in flocks; but wherever they pick a pod with their bills, it rots, and falls to the ground. The cocoa is in some measure perennial, as the fruit is found scattered on the tree during the whole year; but the two principal crops made, are in June and December. The natives are particular in getting in their harvests during the wane of the moon, from an idea they have of their preserving better when gathered in that season. The grains are found in a pod resembling a cucumber, in which they grow in rows surrounded by a soft pulpy substance. From the pod, which is of a purple colour when ripe, the grains are extracted by the hand, as the delicacy of the husk precludes the possibility of using a machine. The full and good grains are assorted from the bad in the same way, and the pod is dropped from the tree with a long stick having a small fork at the end. When picked, the cocoa is laid in heaps in the sun, spread, and dried, which

done, it is stored in close houses in great piles; where it ferments and sweats, producing a moist heat : in these warehouses the physician will sometimes shut up a patient, to whom he has prescribed the use of mercury, in order to produce a greater degree of salivation. The Spaniards when they load it in bulk for Europe, frequently sprinkle it with salt water, which produces another partial sweat, and has the good effect of destroying any species of vermin that may yet remain.

The *recinus americanus*, or *palma christi*, is abundant, and its leaf often enters into the prescriptions of the colonial empirics, to heal a scald, increase the nurse's milk, and a variety of other uses.

The calabash is found of every shape, and grows on a tree as well as on a vine. Indulgent nature seems to have produced this gift to preclude the use of earthen-ware ; for the fruit are found, in shape resembling a bowl, teacup and saucer, pitchers of any size, and that can hold four gallons of water, with a neck like a demijohn ; a powder horn ; a pocket pistol ; and almost every other domestic purpose, which an assorted crate of earthen-ware could supply, and when carved, stained, and ornamented, have a pretty ef-



fect. They are also made into musical instruments.

The *paradisaica* or plantain, and the *musa sapientum*, banana, or fig plantain, constitute the principal food of the common people, and serve the purposes of bread. The plantain is boiled with salt meat, or in the Spanish *olla*, fried in slices, roasted under the ashes, and cooked in a variety of other ways, and when powdered into flour makes good puddings. Its first state is perfectly green, but as soon as ripe, it turns yellow, and the taste differs. The banana is eaten raw as a fruit, and fried into fritters, and is not so long as the plantain though it grows in bunches in the same way. The Spaniards have still that superstition of the natives of Madeira, of never cutting it across, but always in long horizontal slices, from its presenting in the first case, the figure of the sacred instrument of our Saviour's destruction. The flower is a singular curiosity, having a long sheath of a purple colour, on the pendant bunches of which, the fruit succeeds, but the same sucker never bears twice, and is cut down. The fruit is of an oblong shape, somewhat resembling a cucumber, but of an even thickness throughout. A bunch is

sometimes found to contain 58 plantains of nearly a pound each. The leaves grow on the top and wave beautifully to the wind, they are of a pea-green colour, and resemble when first formed a roller, from which they gradually expand, often to a size of eight feet long and one or two wide; and in the centre are supported with a mid rib, and a variety of transverse veins that run to the borders. This vegetable is even more nutritive than flour, serves to fatten all kinds of cattle; and its vegetation is so rapid, as to be almost perceptible to the eye. It is the staff of life in the West Indies, and may deservedly be esteemed a valuable luxury; nor can one but smile, at the confident naiveté with which the Creole Miltons in their couplets, prove this to be the very fruit

‘ whose mortal taste

‘ Brought death into the world, and all our woe.’

The anacardium or cashew nut tree, grows wild in every direction, and the fruit is of a strange appearance. The nut, which is all we know in England, resembles a small kidney, grows at the end of the apple which hangs down of the size of a lemon, so that, unlike other fruits, the *receptaculum* is at the end, and the seed grows on the exterior of the



apex. It stains an indelible black, and is an acrid fruit, highly astringent to the mouth.

Vanilla is found indigenous in the unfrequented woods, where it courts congenial moisture and shade. It belongs to the variety of creepers that climb and rest on the neighbouring tree, but unnoticed by the natives in Hispanola, who have not an idea that a simple preparation could give it the value it bears in Europe. It is a plant that requires no tillage, it adheres naturally and even admits of engrafting, but it is astonishing that even on the Spanish Main where it is known, and whence we obtain what circulates in Europe, particularly in the province of Venezuela, where it is most frequent, it does not yet form an object of trade, for that entire province does not annually afford 1000 lbs. which generally goes in presents to the principal officers, when forty times that quantity might be with equal ease supplied, the rest being left on the trees to rot neglected, or to be eaten by the monkeys, who also appear to consider it a delicacy. In Spain, the great infuse it into their chocolate, the French in ice creams, perfumes, &c. and use it for a variety of other purposes.

The quassia amara, and simaruba abound and form a beautiful inhabitant of the woods,



but never enter into the materia medica of the country, though both antiseptic and febrifuge. The simarouba waves gracefully to the wind, is tall and stately, the underpart of the leaf is white, the upper of a deep green; they are numerous and alternate. The flowers are yellow and placed on spikes beautifully branched.

The sarsaparilla (smilax) is also a species of creeper or bind-weed, but the large kind only is found wild in Hispanola, the other not being there cultivated; yet this, and a variety of other equally sudorific plants and balsams are not noticed; even the storax and aloes, common productions of their woods; and also many other indigenous drugs, are bought by the apothecaries of the island in the general assortments sent out from England.

Cotton here requires little more than planting; which is generally done in an inferior sandy soil, and its quality if clear, rates with Gonaives best, and the nankeen colour is found as abundant as the white. That however grown on the lower coast of Puerto Rico is the best of any of the neighbouring possessions, but from want of encouragement is now much neglected.

Indigo appears once to have been a prin-

principal culture in this country, for immense fields of it are yet found wild, also the *recou*, which now only serves the natives to season and colour certain dishes and ragouts\*.

\* The indigo from Guatemala is the best, particularly the floatant, so called, from its being light, and floating on water. Agricultural essayists, in consequence of its great scarcity, are now making experiments on its growth in the southern provinces of the European continent, by order of the French government, and memorials have been transmitted to the National Institute, by Monsieur Bruley in Italy, and M. Bataglini in the department de Vaucluse; but the quantity raised, cannot be expected to lessen the price at which they are obliged to purchase the article in England, to supply their own manufactures, now they are deprived of its import from the East and West Indies. The reports, however, made upon this plant say, that it rivals the best imported, the culture of which, we had till now thought, exclusively confined to the torrid zone. Its cultivation is easy, its vegetation quick, and the seeds resemble grains of gunpowder. It requires the greatest cleanliness and care, in perfectly freeing it from the neighbourhood of weeds. In three months it is ready to cut and throw into the vats to ferment; this operation detaches from the leaves the colouring particle, which precipitates to the bottom, and the deposit left, after draining, is dried, by some in the sun, by others in an oven, and then cut in small square cakes. This process having been fully delineated by other pens, any further remarks would be a mere comparison between the defective mode of the Spaniards, with the more improved, and generally adopted, system of the French.

The malagueta is a spice that differs from the allspice of Jamaica, is highly relished by the Spaniards in dressing meats, and is found wild in Samana. This article was originally called the grains of paradise, it is a poignant pepper-like spice, and found by the Portuguese, among the negroes on the coast of Africa, in their first voyages to that country, and, from it, one part of the coast of Guinea is called to this day Malaguete, or the pepper coast. After the discovery of the East Indies, and especially when the Portuguese monarchs declared the pepper trade to be a monopoly of the crown, the exportation of the grains of paradise, or malagueta, was prohibited; they are no longer an article of export trade, though, in the days of Columbus, they were in general use both in Portugal and Spain. In all Hispanola, they still form the principal seasoning of certain favourite dishes. It is thought, that from their being particularly found in Samana, they were planted there by Columbus when he first visited this bay.

Their tobacco is esteemed by themselves equal to that of Cuba, and its growth is chiefly confined to the districts of La Vega and St. Jago. The tobacco formerly ga-

thered in all the Spanish possessions abroad, as well as that taken to her ports in Europe, was bought up on account of the crown, wherein is vested the sole privilege of manufacturing and vending it. Factors are, for this purpose, stationed to collect it, and they buy the crops at prices fixed by themselves, according to their own inspection, a proceeding which was often attended with abuses that discouraged the planter. This system of things being now changed, it bids fair to become one of the many articles of culture, to which they will turn their attention.

Ginger has long ceased to be an object of trade; but the curcuma or turmeric, of the same species, yielding an excellent yellow dye, might easily become an article of commercial export. Two crops of rice are annually gathered, superior to that of Carolina; Puerto Rico, however, affords it in much greater abundance, and it can often be shipped at the low rate of three dollars per 100lbs., and unlike that planted in sandy and moist bottoms, it here grows most luxuriant on the high mountains.

Perhaps no country could afford a herbal more extensive and interesting, than the



varied vegetable kingdom of this island, hitherto so little explored; but a classification and analysis of so many useful and curious plants, many of them almost unnamed to us in Europe, would require the investigations of an enthusiastic botanist, and form a work of considerable magnitude.

The European, on landing, is struck with the novel and variegated foliage of a tropical hemisphere; the orange or golden apple of the Hesperides, the shaddock grove, and alcoves covered with the creeping granadillo, in flower and bearing fruit, form at noon, a delightful shade to enhance the conviviality of a dinner party. The pomegranate, the sweet swelling acacia, the red and white franchipane, equally ornament the prospect, and perfume the air.

As a matter of curiosity, I cannot but mention that in travelling along the road, the horse sometimes steps on a spreading bed of the sensitive plant, that instantly droops, as does the loaded corn to a gust of wind, with the suddenness of magical influence. The teaplant runs wild, but is only used as an excellent pectoral. The almond shrub has the peculiarity of perfectly affording the taste of that kernel, on mastication, and is

used in distilling, to give to cordials its rival flavour.

The aloe serves only for fences. The *Pita* of the same family, and similar in shape and prickles, but of a vivid green, answers a variety of purposes for texture, and when the leaf has been pressed through two sticks laid horizontally, and thus divested of its interior pulpy substance, it leaves a hank of fibres similar to hemp, but longer, and of a snow-white glossy appearance. The natives manufacture it into hammocks, and other useful articles; it is extremely strong, and much more deserving the attention of the public, than the fibres of the plantain tree. The *Pita* grows in every part of the island, but most particularly in Santiago, and when once planted, lasts nearly for ever, for the outside leaves, when they have attained their full growth, are all that are successively cut, and others continue to shoot out from the centre. On the river Oronoko, vessels are entirely rigged with it.

The fruits and nutritive roots of this island, native and exotic, are nearly the same as those of Jamaica, extremely fine, and infinitely more abundant, and besides those we have already mentioned, there is found the

choux caraib, or Indian kale, with a variety of other vegetables that come under the same denomination; the avocado, or vegetable marrow, the melon, sapadillo, guava, pine-apple, bread and jack fruit, mango, ground nuts, rose-apple, plumbs resembling our own, but of a different taste, with many others which the European, even there, seldom sees brought to table.

Besides these, the plantain, the yam, sweet potatoe, and pumpkin, form part of the negroes' food; as also the casava and sweet manioc roots. Many vegetable substances grow wild on the hedges and in the woods, resembling the potatoe; the most remarkable of which is one called by the French *Bondà*, and by the Spaniards *volador* (or flyer), from being produced on a creeper that often out-tops the loftiest tree.

Cheese, of a poor quality and white appearance, is made, something resembling hard curds, in which the salt infused serves to preserve it, and give a pungent taste to the mouth. It is often matured by being buried some weeks in the ground, yet, unlike us, who seldom relish cheese but with the bitter taste of porter, the inhabitants never eat it, unless covered with sweet marmalade, or



preserved fruits; and even in Spain grapes are considered its most delicious and appropriate condiment, hence their old proverb,

Uvas y queso  
Saben á beso.

Butter is made by putting the skimmings of milk into a bottle, which in two shakes, turns it out of a consistency to be formed into a mass.

The kingdom of Flora also boasts her variety and sweets; but to particularize them, would fill an endless catalogue. The flowering convolvulus of a thousand kinds; the indigenous jessamine, white and yellow; the passion flower of several tints; lilies, and a variety of other flowers, with which we are not acquainted, adorn the wild scenery of the woods, 'and waste their sweetness on the desert air.'

## CHAP. VIII.

## MINES, MINERAL PRODUCTIONS, &amp;c.

It is now time to convey some idea of the valuable mines, with which nature has exclusively gifted the East division of the island, and which, in the early ages of the discovery, tempted so many adventurers abroad, excited the jealousy and ambition of other nations, urging them to brave the dangers of sea and climate, for the establishment of rival colonies. There can be little doubt that the best mines are yet unexplored, as the Indians set no value on gold, and the most likely spots have not yet been trod, unless by the huntsman, or the fugitive negro. Those which are known, however, merit a degree of notice, for in the hands of suitable workmen, they would be found more productive, than many of those on the Main.

Eight leagues from the capital, and near an old settlement called Bonao, are the gold mines known by the name of *Buena ventura*, (or good luck) which are minutely mentioned both by the Spanish and French authors. It

was here, Oviedo tells us, that Garay and Díaz found that wonderful grain of gold, never yet equalled in the history of any mines, which weighed 3600 pesos of gold, a weight equal to 200 ounces. It was first discovered by an Indian woman in their service, and so great was the astonishment and pleasure of the two old chiefs of Columbus, that, according to the same record, they killed a roasting pig to feast their friends, which they caused to be served up entire upon the grain, boasting at the same time, that their Catholic Majesties had never dined off so rich a dish. When it was inspected by governor Bobadilla, who purchased it on account of the king, it was the opinion of the professional men who made the essay, that twenty ounces would not be lost in the melting, the metal being so pure. It unfortunately perished on board one of the ships, in that noted equinoctial gale which the old admiral prognosticated, and in which so many vessels foundered at sea. It may with justice be said that the ocean never received into its bosom, so great and valuable a curiosity.

In a small rivulet close by, called Santa Rosa, to this day, the poor people, after the

rains, continue to wash the sand they collect, in a small calabash, and an old woman and children, after the rainy season, will often obtain at the rate of an ounce per day. These small particles are dislodged by the mountain torrent, from the great mine, the old vein of which is now fallen in, though perfectly visible, and out of the clay dug from the entrance, they make earthen pitchers and vessels, that come for sale to the capital, and sparkle with the small spangles they contain.

Charlevoix, speaking of the primitive state of this country, says, that Columbus being informed by several Caciques that in the South there were rich mines of gold, and desirous of ascertaining the fact before he returned to Europe, sent Francisco Garay and Miguel Diaz with an escort, who explored this rivulet that falls into Haina river, where they established, for the protection of the workmen, a fort called St. Christopher's, which name the mines afterwards bore. This fort was afterwards completed by Bartholomew in person, whilst holding the office of Adelantado, or Vice-governor, during the absence of his brother at Court.

Cotuy, more to the N. and situated in the

centre of the island, was formerly called the Town of the Miners, from the numbers collected there to work. On a ridge called Maymon, is a copper mine; and two leagues further, another called La Esmeralda, from that precious stone being dug there.

The famous mines of Cibao, the Indian name for a stoney country, were however the first that afforded specimens of the riches of the country, for their Catholic Majesties, and yielded them most treasure. They are situated in the centre of the island, near La Vega and Santiago, bordering on the river Janico. In the mountains that inclose the valley of Costanza before described, are veins of a very productive nature, and large particles are washed down by the rains. At a distance of two days journey from Santiago, at the head of Rio Verde, or Green River, many grains are collected, as also in the river Yaque, of which specimens of a beautiful nature are in possession of the author.

The first journey of Columbus to these mines, as related by a good Spanish author\*, may deserve notice. In March 1494 the Admiral resolved to visit the mines of Cibao in

\* Muños.

person, and on the 12th set out with about 400 followers, his horses, and a number of Indians.

About four leagues after his outset, he had to encounter that very difficult passage through the mountains which had impeded those who made the first expedition. He called it Puerto de los Hidalgos, or the Pass of the Noblemen, from some of that rank having had the courage to lead through it. When they had gained the summit, they were rewarded with an extensive prospect of the renowned plain of La Vega.

Columbus also intended to avail himself of these opportunities of visiting the interior, to impress the Indians with an idea of the superior power of the Europeans, in order to prepare their minds for a ready submission to his king. For this purpose he caused his troops to march from Isabella in squadrons, with flying colours, to the sound of trumpets, and in this military array they proceeded through the villages. Most of the astonished Indians came flying to them, ready to offer all they possessed in the most submissive manner; others fled in fear and consternation, and the rest enclosed themselves in cottages and barricaded the doors with poles and reeds.

The Cibaes and their chief received the Spaniards with great affection. They presented them with victuals, gold dust, and gold grains of various sizes. Those that offered the latter, received glass beads and other trifles in return, with which they were so highly pleased, that they ran immediately to a rivulet and returned with more gold, of which they gave two grains, weighing more than an ounce, for a single bell, on which they set a particular value.

The Admiral had not seen any gold grains of this size before, except one which the Cacique he met near the sea-coast had given him, and which he sent by the fleet to the Spanish Monarch. He was now informed by the Indians that in the distance of half a day's journey, gold grains were to be found of the weight of five and six pounds, and he was confirmed in this by the reports of discoverers sent into the interior.

To the South are the mines of Guaba, Rubio, and Baoruco, where several persons have clandestinely enriched themselves without ever making use of a tool. The Maroons, who occupy the hills of the latter place, as before described, procure with the gold they collect, the principal part of their cloth-



ing, for they have little or no other trade, and the author had once an opportunity of purchasing a square bottle of grains which they had gathered, containing 45 ounces. From some peculiar policy in the Spanish crown, perhaps a wish not to rival the mines of the Main, which were subsequently discovered, and at that time under the peculiar protection of persons in power, all the mines were closed by a royal decree, which was executed by an armed force, civil officers visiting each spot, and denouncing the most severe penalties on those who should touch them. This plan might also be founded on a dread of attracting the notice, or exciting the rivalry of any other foreign power, which, in an island so detached, and accessible from so many quarters, might prove an easy conquest to a powerful foe.

On the road to La Vega, at a place called Garabacoa, is situated a rich silver mine, and another twelve leagues from Santiago, on the borders of the rivulets called Obispo and Piedras. In the neighbourhood of Puerto Plata, are several others, as well as in Tanci to the West, and Yasica near the Yaque. On Haina river, near the capital, on an estate called Gamboa, a very excellent vein has been

worked; others also in La Cruz, and at St. Miguel's; and near Higuey, in the E. end of the island, is one that was known formerly to the Indians.

Seven or eight leagues from the capital, is a good iron mine, and a finer one still, near Cotuy, the ore or manufactured articles of which would easily descend the Yuna, into the Bay of Samana.

Quicksilver is found at the source of the Yaque, and also near the gold mines of Cibao. On the right of the main road leading W. from Haina River, at a small place called Valesquillo, there is a barren ridge that abounds in this mineral. The load-stone is common in many places; and in the copper mines of Maymon a blue substance is found, which the natives use for colouring. Jasper of several shades is met with, as well as porphyry and alabaster. Agates are found in the districts of Azua and Banis, and jet extremely glossy in that of Banica, near the Tescino River. There is a mine of antimony near Hinch, which yields pieces of six and eight pounds. Mineral copperas is extracted near Santiago, as well as at the source of the river Guayamuco, near a hamlet called Morico. Red ochre, in globules as large as a pigeon's egg, is found at Oya

Chiquita, and in a place called Rica, also another species of a flesh colour. In the district of Santiago the amethyst has been met with of a transparent violet colour, and of an excellent water. In Neyba and Hinchu Rivers, pebbles have been picked up that contain brilliants. But who can with justice describe this grand but unexplored museum of nature, or detail the various fossils with which it teems. Herrera says, that in early times, when every thing was on a confined scale, when hydraulics and mechanism had not yet been applied to the assistance of mining, and little more than the pickaxe was used, the mint or smelting house melted annually from the mines of La Vega and Buena Ventura alone 460,000 marks of gold, besides what was sent away in its raw state, or made up into ornaments.

Even now, after the great successive ravages and pillages the country has undergone, it is not unusual to see a grazier or wood-cutter, come down from the mountains, with massive buckles a pound each, two gold watch chains, and perhaps a poor silver watch to one, a rosary, large double buttons, hat buckle, &c. which he parades as ornament, and thinks the most respectable finery. Their church ornaments were also very heavy;

but though they had withstood the temptations of Toussaint, and his sooty cohorts, when possession was given him of the country, they soon disappeared after the entrance of the white French government. Such even at those times, was their boasted fraternity to the Spaniards.

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## CHAP. IX.

### ANIMALS, GAME, FISH, INSECTS, &c.

IN the original discovery of this island, four species of quadrupeds were found, which the Indians called Hutia, Quemi, Mohuy, and Cory, but all of a very diminutive size. The first, however, is now the only one met with, for like the race of natives to whom they were at first subservient, they have become extinct, as if the introduction of European animals had equally had effect in the brute creation. The Hutia, or agouti cat, resembles the squirrel and rabbit, is of a grey colour, but not equally dexterous with the for-

mer on the trees, though, like it, assisted by its tail. It stays more on the ground, burrows in hollow trees, but takes to the forest when pursued. It is seldom found in any part of Hispanola excepting near Santiago, where it is frequent, but in Cuba it is more abundant, and when made into pies, is thought by many a great delicacy. Another of the abovementioned indigenous species of animals, resembled a small guinea-pig, without hair, and the third a dog which did not bark, and was domesticated by the Indians.

The animals brought from Europe procreated with great rapidity, particularly horned cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, horses, mules, and asses. Oviedo says, that in 1535 (of course forty-three years after the discovery) cargoes of hides were exported, and cattle were in such low estimation, that the skin was of an equal value with the carcass. Leaving the limits of their pastures, they have run wild in the woods, and are now in many places the rightful prey of the huntsman. The privilege of hunting is attached to the ownership of lands, which are sometimes sold, and the particular right called *monteria* is retained.

The increase of cattle would be still much greater, were it not for the great mortality

caused by a large fly similar to the cantharides of the Mediterranean, which, fastening on any excoriation the animal meets with by accident, from the escaped lance of the hunter, or from forcing a path in the thick woods, there deposits an egg, which afterwards breeds into a maggot, that gnaws and widens the sore, and at length deprives the beast of life. These flies also flock round the tender navel-string of their young cattle, and there lodge their mortal embryo. Notwithstanding all these accidents, to which those ranging in the plains, under the partial care of a herdsman, are also in some degree liable, notwithstanding, too, the great consumption of the former French Division, and the incursions of the Haytians, graziers are still left in the district of Seibo who own 12,000 head of cattle, which they often sell in herds at six and eight dollars per head. On the Spanish Main, grazing also affords occupation to many of the richest inhabitants, who have immense herds, and it would appear singular, that these gentlemen graziers, particularly in Caraccas, should take the greatest pride in having the halls of their houses, paved with the rotulas, or the knee-pans of horned cattle, somewhat resembling a mosaic pavement, and producing a good

effect. This is always pointed out to the stranger, as the produce from their own pasture grounds, and the indication of their wealth, for certainly the number of bones must be great, when each does not occupy an inch square : yet I must freely confess, that to the European it conveys the idea of their being great butchers, rather than great breeders.

Hogs are found equally numerous, and the inhabitants use their flesh most generally for food, but it is not wholesome to the European stomach. Those that are killed wild, when jerked with salt, and the juice of the sour orange, after being smoaked with its aromatic leaves, are palatable, as they form a kind of brawn, and so great are their numbers, that the hunter, with his spear and dogs, will often kill four or five before breakfast. They are always skinned, and not scalded, the hides being exported for saddles, and covering for trunks.

The horse, though small in size, is extremely agile, sure-footed, is easily fed, and naturally goes a gentle, equal, ambling pace, well suited to the fatigue and heat of the road and climate; to trot would be considered his greatest demerit. The ass and mule are equally good in their kinds. Goats and sheep



are bred in great quantities in Banis and Azua, and only fetch from three to four dollars per head. Wool has not yet become a consideration of any notice. It is astonishing that though the llamas, vicuñas and deer, abound on the neighbouring main, there never was any one sufficiently patriotic to bring them over to the suitable regions of Hispanola, to procreate in these appropriate ranges, and thus to benefit posterity. The horses, mules, and asses at present in the island are estimated at 150,000, and the horned cattle at 300,000.

Poultry here is good, and much cheaper than in any part of the West Indies.

Game is extremely plentiful, more so than the sportsman who goes in search of exercise in a colder climate would desire. On the plains of Neyba, besides a peculiar pheasant called the Flamenco, and other birds, is found the wild peacock, which in flavour surpasses the finest turkey, nor can any thing be more pleasing than to see flocks of this animal feeding in stately parade in the rich bottoms. Though their plumage is not so brilliant as those we domesticate in Europe, it still varies to the sight in gay colours; the bird, by becoming wild, and feeding on the bitter berries, forms a most desirable treat to the epicure,

comparable to the heath hen of England, or grouse of North America. This is the only quarter where the species is seen collectively, and the author cannot but think, that it is owing to their having been here originally presented to the Indians as an European curiosity, who retained and bred them as objects of veneration, this spot being considered as the last tomb of those unfortunate aborigines.

The guinea fowl, nearly equal in flavour to the bird above described, is killed in all the plains in such quantities that in the season they are sold in the market for a rial each. Their nests are found with thirty and forty eggs, and the shell so hard that it does not break by falling to the ground. The wild pigeons are of four species; their meat is savoury, though rather bitter, of the game taste; the parrot is also eaten, and the ortolan is not scarce. Unlike the Main and neighbouring islands, no singing birds are found excepting the Jamaica nightingale or mocking-bird, and the banana bird, with handsome plumage, black and yellow.

On the list of wild fowl, are reckoned ducks, of a variety of species, the diver, galding, heron, crane, teal, plover, and snipe.

Fishes are similar to those of other islands, and the best are the snook, calapever, various kinds of mullet, the pargo, the grooper, jew fish, baracooter, craw and rock fish, besides the smaller fry. The land crab is thought a great delicacy by the Creole, and has its peculiar mode of dressing. Turtle of all kinds is taken; also immense quantities of tarapins, or small amphibious tortoises, that when dressed are rich and delicate. The meat of the turtle which yields tortoise-shell is not eaten, but soup made from it is given in cutaneous disorders.

The guano, is relished by the natives, but from its ugly scaly form, that corresponds with our ideas of a dwarf-dragon, does not suit the prejudices of the European. The lizard is a perfectly harmless creature, feeding principally on flies, and basking and gamboling on the walls in the sunshine. The serpent crosses your path unheeded, but the centipedes is large, dangerous, and frequent in old buildings; the scorpion rarely appears, but the venomous crab-spider, a reptile almost as formidable, is sometimes seen.

It may be worthy of remark that great quantities of sharks prowl under the walls of the city near St. Gill's battery, called by

the English the yellow battery, near which the slaughter-house stands, and where they are accustomed to lay in wait for the offals that are thrown out. It is perhaps a sport novel and curious, to see the boys throw in a fresh full blown bladder, round which the sharks flock in numbers, and with hungry voraciousness jump at it with a clumsy side-long snatch, whilst the levity of the bladder eludes their grasp, and generally ends in a bloody war amongst themselves. They seldom enter the fresh water but are extremely thick all along the coast; and there have been instances of an English sailor, to escape a man of war, and get ashore, plunging unconscious into their jaws.

That sharks also abound in the other parts of the island, may be seen by the following relation of a surprising circumstance, handed me by one of the officers of his Majesty's ship *Dædalus*, on board of which it happened, whilst lying in the bay of Samana in Hispaniola, during the late capture of that place.

Several sharks were seen swimming about this ship early in the forenoon of the 20th of November, 1808, lurking for prey, and exciting the curiosity of all the crew. A hook

well baited, was hung overboard and immediately seized by one of them with extreme voraciousness. Its attempts to escape and disengage itself were frustrated by a rope in a slip noose, being passed over its fins, with which it was hoisted on board by no less a number than twenty men. In cutting it open, they were surprised to find in its maw a dead calf, which had been thrown overboard from the ship only a few hours previous. The length from the extremity of the tail to that of the snout, measured full ten feet, the circumference of its body was proportionate, and the jaws when extended, would have admitted the body of the stoutest man on board.

Three others of an equal size were caught, in the last of which was found sixty-two young ones, a turkey, and a live hawks-bill-turtle, measuring two feet six inches in length, and one foot nine inches in breadth; the turtle on being put into a tub of water swam about immediately after its release, apparently not injured by its singular confinement.

An instance of so extraordinary a nature deserves to be recorded, and it may be asserted with truth, that with one hook sixty-three sharks of different sizes and dimensions,

but all equally voracious, were actually caught at one time of fishing. Few other aquatic monsters are remarked except the sea-cow or manati met with near Beata, the ribs of which animal resemble ivory, and its moans, those of a female in distress.

Pearls in the first ages appear to have been collected in some quantities, and near Savana la mar, in Samana bay, is a small harbour that yet bears their name. In the year 1531, according to the best Spanish authorities, the governor of Santo Domingo sent home to the Emperor five *celemines* or pecks of pearls, being the fifth exacted by the crown; but they are now unsought, and never found in the market; yet one would conceive, that after so long a respite, it would be profitable to resume this kind of fishery, to which the natives are well suited, from being good divers; some quantity of tortoise-shell might be annually obtained.

The purpura (murex) or Tyrian dye is taken out of a small snail resembling a periwinkle, found in St. Andrew's bay; and has been remarked as an object of curiosity by the author, in a beautiful bathing place called Guibia at the end of the avenue leading to fort St Jerome. Some Spanish authors say it is

also to be met with on the coasts of Guayaquil and Guatemala.

The cochineal is found indigenous in the district of St. Johns; Banis, and along Ocoa river. This precious insect feeds on a plant of the species of the *Nopal* of Mexico; called the *alpargata* or Indian shoe, from the shape of the leaf, and generally classed by us with the prickly pear, though the leaf is thinner, but of the same configuration; the fruit however is larger, more prickly, of a clouded green, and acidulous taste. The colouring of the animal, derived from its food, is the same as in New Spain. In this district is found, that small red insect resembling a spider, which, when crushed upon the human body produces a poison through the system, cured only by the Indian remedy, of scorching the entire skin with the flame of certain leaves.

The nigua (so called by the Spaniards) or tick, (*acarus* belonging to the order of the aptera) is by far the most horrid and disagreeable insect in the West Indies. It harbours in the dust of a floor, and particularly in the ashes of a kitchen. It makes its attack generally on the foot, and an itching of the skin announces its lodgement. It appears like a small black speck, seen through the skin,



and when neglected grows to the size of a bug, burying itself in the flesh, with a bag under its belly, that contains its eggs; not to break which, forms the great dexterity of the extraction, for should the pellicule burst, you are sure to find the troublesome companion in your flesh for many weeks afterwards. So poisonous is the casing it leaves, and so great the difficulty of clearing it out, that you are forced often to cut the flesh open, to get at the deep burrow it has formed; but its best cure and antidote is powdered tobacco; yet the careless negro sometimes looses his foot.

The French call it *chique*, and have enriched their language with a derivative adjective, *chiqueux*, or ticky, an epithet generally applied to the filthy negro, who neglects his person, and by him thought the greatest term of opprobrium. I never met with its full description by a naturalist, though I have read of a Capuchin preserving a nest of them in his foot, as a present to the colleges in Europe, but unfortunately the length of the passage produced a mortification in that part, which made it necessary to cut it off, and the learned world were thus deprived of this specimen intended to enrich the page of natural history.

The cocullo, is a kind of glow-fly (lampyris) that emits from the belly and eyes, a luminous matter; and resembles in shape the orders of the scarabæus. On certain festival days in the month of June, they are collected and tied in great quantities all over the outer garments of the young people; who gallop through the streets on horses equally ornamented, producing on a dark evening the effect of a large moving body of light, and it is on this occasion the lover displays his gallantry, in decking and attending his mistress with these living gems. The entrails of this insect crushed on the wall, have a perfect phosphoric effect, that only ceases when dry.

## CHAP. X.

## POPULATION, CITIES, TOWNS, &amp;c.

OF the Spanish possessions abroad, where the government establishes no census, it is difficult to give an exact scale of population; for that charge being left to the ecclesiastical authority, is incorrect from the manner in which it is drawn up. It being ordered by the precepts of their church to frequent the sacraments annually at Easter, the curates of the respective parishes, enforce this religious practice by anathemas from the pulpit on the irreligious; and admit only to the paschal feast of the altar, such persons as bring a small check, signed by the confessor, with the word '*confeso*' he or she has confessed, added to the date of the year. On receiving the sacrament this is replaced by another check, with the word '*comulgo*,' he or she has been at communion, and is in like manner countersigned by the parish curate. The tickets thus delivered, are transmitted to the bishop of the diocese, and when collectively added, form the returns of the population, with al-

lowances for those under age: such a census being generally under-rated, affords a very imperfect statement, as will particularly be evinced when we come to speak of Spanish America.

The population of the Spanish division of Hispaniola at present amounts to about 104,000 persons of all ages, a number larger than generally supposed by those who visit the island, in consequence of its being scattered over such an extent of territory. According to themselves in 1785, when their last estimate was made, it amounted to 152,640, of which the difference from the sum before stated, consists of those who, emigrating when the French took possession, are now returning, and also of the prisoners and refugees to the Haytian powers, estimated at 4000. The following scale may be relied upon, and its amount added to 8000, living scattered in the mountains, and 25,000 emigrants, accords nearly with the original Spanish estimate.

*Present Population in Hispaniola.*

City of Santo Domingo and its surrounding districts	22,000
Santiago and its Jurisdiction	20,000
Dejahon ditto	4000
La Vega Real ditto	8000
Cotuy ditto	5000
Haina ditto	2000
Los Ingenios ditto	2500
Banis, Azua, and their districts	3000
each	6000
St. John and district	4000
Neyba ditto	1500
Banica, Cahobas, Atalaya, Hinch, and respective districts	7000
Villages of Las Minas, Monte Plata, and Baya	1400
Bayaguana, Seibo, and districts	7000
Higüey and districts	3500
Peninsula of Samana and Savannah la Mar	3500
Puerto de Plata, Monte Christi, and districts	6500
Persons	<u>103,900</u>

Of this number, about 30000 are slaves, and the rest a mixture of white, Indian, and



black, extremely blended. The European Spaniards are few, and principally consist of Catalans, who come in search of fortunes, and keep shops. Besides the above statement, there are many poor settlers, that live in the mountains, nearly unknown, nor are the maroons, before described, included in the amount.

In general, the natives are agile, strong, healthy, and capable of bearing the greatest fatigue. With two plantains per day, and a small strip of jerked meat, they will travel and perform the hardest duty, and their wants scarcely exceed a hammock, sword-blade, or manchete by their sides, with a little tobacco.

In general they are well made, and personal deformity is seldom met with. This is owing to the easy parturition of the female, which is seldom attended with accidents by the neglect of nursing, and which allows to the infant all the freedom of person prescribed by Rousseau. The children are unshackled by swaddling cloaths, and from occupying the ground floors, they are not exposed to those falls, which, in the populous cities of the north of Europe, produce among the common people, such an irregularity of shape; nor can we think with Mr. Pauw and

Doctor Robertson, that this peculiarity, so remarkable both amongst Spanish and Indian American natives, is owing, as it was with the Lacedæmonians, to their putting to death all deformed children amongst them, for no tradition or traces of this practice can be found, in any of the South regions of America\*. I lately met with an exception to this general remark in Santiago, in a family of dwarfs, from parents of the common size; the eldest son, now twenty-five years of age, is only thirty-one inches high, well shaped, extremely active and animated, and with a voice that would not be drowned in ringing bass to a choir of bacchanalians. His brothers and sisters being of similar proportions, they would, if introduced into Europe, be thought a singular phenomenon.

The elephantiasis, also called the lepra of the Arabians, is not unfrequent, particularly in the negroes of Hispaniola, and is a gross collection of venereal viscous humours, which forms on the foot and leg, and swells them in wrinkles, to a size which often sur-

\* The inhuman practice of murdering deformed children, was not only permitted in Rome, but prescribed by the laws of the twelve tables. *Pater insignem ad deformitatem puerum cito necato*, &c.; but this seems restricted to the male issue.



passes that of the human body, resembling the misshapen foot of an elephant, and is deemed incurable. It sometimes collects also in immense wens or bags of hard matter, that hang from the neck, from which no operation can separate them.

The city of Santo Domingo, which may be considered the first or oldest city of the Western world, is situated on the West margin of the river Ozama, whose waters on that side and the sea to the South, lave its ramparts. It was originally built on the other side of the river, by Bartholomew Columbus, in the year 1496, and called the new Isabella; but in consequence of that dreadful equinoctial gale, predicted by the old admiral, which happened in 1502, when the fleet that conveyed the treasure to Europe perished, its buildings, which were yet only of wood, were destroyed, and this calamity being followed by a pestilential visitation of destructive ants, Ovando removed the city to the other side, which he founded and built on a regular plan\*.

\* The establishments on the river Ozama, appear to have been made by orders communicated to Bartholomew, from the old admiral his brother, whilst in Spain on his second voyage, whither he had gone, to withstand the

The appearance of the town is picturesque but gloomy, from the massive piles of buildings, unadorned with steeples; and romantic, from being interspersed with gardens and verdure. The houses are generally very good, built in the old Spanish style, with flat roofs, and a yard or *patio* in the middle, with surrounding galleries inside, and balconies to the street. The lower windows are all iron grated, many of the doors fold, and give entrance to a large vestibule or passage, where the porter sits. The water for drinking is collected into cisterns by spouts from the flat roofs, and on the first changing of the scite of the city, to this side of the river, a passage pontoon was kept at the expence of government, in which the slaves crossed with their pitchers, to procure the water for the use of families; but it was in the original plan of the new founder, to convey into the city a branch of the Haina river, by means of an aqueduct leading to a reservoir or fountain in the main square, the remains of which are yet designated by

attacks making on his reputation, by his enemies at court. The choice of this spot was occasioned by the gold found in the river Haina, as the order contains a specific direction to look out a convenient harbour near that river, and to plant a colony on the southern coast.

a flat stone, though the works, which had been partly executed, have since fallen to decay\*.

\* There is preserved in the works of Oviedo, a Spanish historian, who resided here about thirty years after its first establishment, an account of its state and population at that period, equally authentic and curious; this we present to the reader—From a translation by Richard Eden, printed, London 1555, in black letter.

“But nowe (says the historian) to speake sumwhat of the principall and-chiefe place of the islande, whiche is the citie of *San Domenico* : I saye, that as touchynge the buildynges, there is no citie in Spaine, so much for so-muchē (no not *Barsalona*, whiche I have oftentimes seene) that is to bee preferred before this generallyc. For the houses of San Domenico are for the moste parte of stone, as are they of *Barsalona*. The situation is muche better than that of *Barsalona*, by reason that the streates are muche larger and playner, and without comparyson more directe and strayght furth. For beinge buylded nowe in our tyme, besyde the commoditie of the place of the foundation, the streates were also directed with corde, compase and measure; wercin it excelleth al the cities that I have seene. It hath the sea so nere, that of one syde there is no more space between the sea and the citie, then the waules. On the other parte, hard by the syde and at the foote of the houses, passeth the ryver *Ozama*, whiche is a marveyllous porte; wherein laden shyppes ryse very nere to the lande, and in manner under the house wyndowes. In the myddest of the citie is the fortresse and castle; the port or haven also, is so fayre and commodious to defraight or unlade shyppes, as the lyke is founde but in fewe places

The walls of the houses, as well as the ramparts that surround the city, are formed of a glutinous red earth mixed with lime,

of the worlde. The chymineis that are in this citie are about syxe hundredth in number, and such houses as I have spoken of before; of which sum are so fayre and large that they maye well receave and lodge any lorde or noble manne of Spayne, with his trayne and familie; and especially that which Don *Diego Colon*, viceroy under your majestie, hath in this citie, is suche that I know no man in Spayne that hath the lyke, by a quarter, in goodnesse, considerynge all the commodities of the same. Lykewyse the situation thereof as beinge above the sayde porte, and altogyther of stone, and havynge many faire and large roomes, with as goodly a prospect of the lande and sea as may be devysed, seemeth unto me so magnifical and princelyke, that your majestie may bee as well lodged therein as in any of the moste exquisite buylded houses of Spayne. There is also a cathedrall church buylde of late, where, as well the byshop according to his dygnitie, as also the canones, are wel indued. This church is well buylded of stone and lyme, and of good workemanshype. There are further-more three monasteries bearyng the names of Saynt Dominike, Saynt Frances, and Saynt Mary of Mercedes; the whiche are well buylded, although not so curioslye as they of Spayne. There is also a very good hospitall for the ayde and succour of pore people, whiche was founded by Michaell Passamont, threasurer to your majestie. To conclude, this citie from day to day increaseth in welth and good order, as well for that the sayde admyrall and viceroy, with the lorde chaunceloure



which when exposed to the air, acquires a hardness and durability equal to stone. Their old mode of building these massive walls, was by fixing frames of planks that were filled by layers of this earth, with sand and lime, which, when watered, were well beat and kneaded, and on becoming dry, the mould was withdrawn, by which means a wall was speedily and regularly built, at a small expence. The ramparts are flanked by bastions at appropriate distances, and toward the sea present the appearance of strength. On the land side, in many places, they are not more than 15 feet high, the parapets weak; indeed they seem better formed to withstand the attack of Indians, than the approach of regular ordnance. Instead of a ditch, the penguin is planted beneath; but the surrounding ground has great command on the centre of the city,

and counsaile appoynted there by your majestie, have theyr continuall abydynage here, as also that the ryche men of the ilande resort hyther, for thyre moste commodious habitation and trade of such merchaundies as are eyther brought owt of Spayne, or sent thither from this iland, whiche nowe so abundeth in many thynges, that it serveth Spayne with many commodities, as it were with usury requityng such benefites as it fyrst receaved from thense."

and would render it almost untenable in a regular siege, though the thick walls of the houses, like those of Buenos Ayres, to which they may be compared, would be a considerable cover. There is a great number of cannon and mortars mounted on the ramparts, amongst which are many brass pieces of value.

The barracks, which stand at the S. W. corner of the entrance of the port, partly facing the sea, and partly the river, form a good regular range of square buildings, encircling two large courts in the centre, and are adapted to contain 2000 men. In these courts the soldiers are exercised, and their spaciousness contribute much to air and cleanliness. On the banks of the river is a large commanding watch tower, with a flag staff on the top, the under buildings of which are the dungeons, that, during the siege, were the scene of so many acts of French cruelty. This tower was originally erected by Bartholomew Columbus, but since rebuilt. On the side that faces the sea, and within the barrack walls, stands the arsenal, also a regular fine building, which, like the rest, is nearly new and in good repair, being built in the reign of Charles the third. The

arsenal battery, which commands the entrance, has sixteen brass pieces, sixteens and twenty-fours, and a powder magazine in the yard. These buildings are shut in from the streets, with which they communicate by two large folding gates, and have excellent cisterns for water.

The population contained within the walls of the city in the last years, during which, the Spaniards held the country, is quoted at 20000 persons, but it does not now exceed 12000; that of its district is, however, about 10000 more.

The palace or seat of government, is a good plain building, and lately put in repair by order and at the expence of the French government; but has no display of architecture or ornament. In it were formerly held the High Courts of Appeal for the whole Spanish Western world, but they were afterwards confined to their own islands, Cuba and Puerto Rico. This court and jurisdiction continued till the cession of the island to the French, when the tribunal, archives, regent, and judges, in consequence of their establishment in the Havannah, being opposed by the commercial and ruling interests of that city, removed to Santa Maria del Puerto



Principe, in a central part of the island of Cuba, where it still remains, though soon expected to return to its ancient and usurped seat. Even the province of Cumana was dependant on the royal audience of St. Domingo, till the year 1786, when a special one was established at Caraccas.

The cathedral, standing on the South side of the main square, with its head, as in all Catholic churches, to the East, was built according to plans sent out by the emperor Charles V. the model taken from a church in Rome. An inscription at the entrance records that this church was begun in 1512, and finished in 1540. It is a handsome structure within, in the modern gothic style; the three naves are bold, and the arches well executed. No attention, however, has been paid to the appearance of the outside, for it is a massive pile of building, seemingly more intended to withstand an earthquake than to display elegance, and the philosopher, who traces back the history of the country, sighs at the recollection of this edifice having been accumulated by the labour of Indians, of whose coercion it stands a perennial monument. It contains nine small chapels, and fifteen altars, which once rivalled those of

South America in grandeur and riches, but since the possession of the French, scarcely a solitary lamp, of any value, hangs from the fretted roof.

A large cross of iron wood is preserved in a small chapel, the inscription of which says, it was the first planted on the very ground on which the church now stands, before the first stone was laid, a ceremony with which the Spaniards always precede every building, even the erection of a domestic dwelling. It bears the date above quoted. At the head of the choir, which stands in the centre of the church, is the seat formerly occupied by the archbishop, who here held his see for many years, with three suffragan bishops, corresponding canons, and clergy. They were maintained from the rents of estates and revenues belonging to the church; but the incumbents, unable to brook the change of government, preferred poverty in another settlement of their own, to precarious ease and affluence under the French, to whose rapacity the whole fell a prey. The latter had themselves nominated a bishop in Paris, and only waited the return of peace to send out his establishments.

This church contains the first cross which

Columbus planted in the island, accompanied by the Royal standard of his sovereigns. By the common people, the former is esteemed highly miraculous, and is much revered. It stands in a silver case, richly inlaid, in a tabernacle with three locks, the keys of which are kept by three of the first dignitaries of the church. Here are good vaults and a chapter house, but not an epitaph, monument, or inscription that is remarkable, though some of the old discoverers repose here. We notice the tombs of two archbishops; one has a large figure, in marble, of a dignitary in his full robes, and the crosier in his hand.

On the right of the high altar, for many years, rested the remains of the ill-requited, but immortal Columbus, to which place they were removed, from the Carthusian convent of Seville, by his own order, contained in his will, and deposited in this first and favourite scene of his discovery and settlement, together with the chains which his ungrateful countrymen there put upon him, and which he bore on his passage home. When the island was ceded to the French, his descendants directed the brass coffin, in which the whole was contained, to be re-



moved to the Havannah, which ceremony was performed on the 19th of January, 1796, when the precious ashes of that great man were carried down to the harbour in procession, and under the fire of the forts, put on board a brig, which conveyed them to the capital of Cuba, where they now lie; yet still, in that great and opulent city, of the island which could boast the prior discovery of the great admiral, no proud monument rears its head over his dust, in veneration of his name, and no cenotaph perpetuates his glory. The *procès verbal*, or proceedings of this translation of his remains, was shewn to me by the hereafter mentioned respectable head of the church, and is on record amongst its minutes.

The chapel where the sacrament is kept, has a small roof or dome painted in compartments, and is ornamented with large paintings of the twelve apostles, copied by Velasquez, a native painter now residing there, whose talents, though unassisted by any schooling, are particularly great in taking likenesses, the strongest that can be imagined, though the blendings of his colours are coarse. There are some paintings on the walls and pillars of the church, but

altogether divested of taste or execution, and only serve to lessen the merit of the building; nor is there an altar-piece worth looking at. During the late siege, a bomb, shot from the Spanish batteries, fell on the roof of the church, where it lodged, but from the train being extinguished, did not explode or do any damage; a circumstance considered by the people miraculous, and it is now shewn as a curiosity.

I cannot forbear here noticing a peculiarity of Don Pedro de Prado, long a venerable dignitary of this cathedral, the more striking, as in the habits of intimacy I enjoyed with him, I had an opportunity of remarking it. Unlike the other clergy at the cession of the island, this aged pastor would not leave the flock which God had committed to his early care; though on the main, where he was born, and had all his relations, much greater dignities and preferments were offered him. With a degree of enthusiastic foresight, even in presence of the French commanders, he would continually say, that though then old, he was confident he should live to see that sacred spot, devolve to its ancient and rightful owners, and on the triumphant entry of the

combined armies, though too infirm personally to sing the *Te Deum*, in congratulating the British General on the capture of the city, he cried out in extacy, that he that day saw realized, the prayer he had unceasingly made for twelve years, and in the words of Simeon in the temple, on receiving the Messiah into his arms, he emphatically exclaimed, "Nunc dimittis servum tuum secundum verbum tuum in pace, &c." that he could then depart in peace, he had not a wish on this side the grave. It is remarkable that he died a fortnight afterwards, aged 78 years, and to redress in some measure the cruelties of the French, in which he had been at once a sufferer and an eye-witness, he left what he possessed to his fellow-victims in the siege, particularly thirteen houses, the annual rents of which are distributed to the poor in daily sums.

On the West side of the square, the sodded platform of which makes a pleasant walk, stands the *Cabildo*, or Hall of Audience. On the East side, once stood the public prisons, but they have now fallen to decay, and are substituted by those of the military, which stand under the watch tower, in the

barrack yard. Besides the main square, there are three others.

In the other parts of the town are several convents and nunneries, whose inmates deserted them when the flag changed. They have been of late years in a state of decay; for the French turned them principally into barracks, hospitals, public stores, and one church into a playhouse. At present they are allotted as dwellings for the poor, whose wooden houses were burnt and destroyed during the siege, whilst the spacious courts, and damp aisles once trod by the vestal, are now choaked up with rubbish and moulder away, more from neglect, than the delapidating hand of time. The different orders are, however, soon expected to return, and resume their respective properties.

The Dominican, Franciscan, and Merci convents are the principal religious establishments; they are large spacious buildings, with each a well finished but pillaged church, and are comparable to many in Spain and Portugal. There is a college that formerly belonged to the Jesuits, in which were once educated those young men who most shone at the bar of the audience, and the neighbouring islands sent their children thither; but now



the church, which has an elegant dome, and the other apartments, are turned by government into store houses. The nunneries of Santa Clara and Regina, serve only to shelter the poor. There are besides two hospitals, one of which, formerly destined to receive all the leprous persons, was called St. Lazarus, besides several pretty parish churches, private chapels, oratorios, &c. It was in the Dominican convent of this city, that the benevolent Las Casas took refuge from the persecution of his enemies, and died, but in vain have I sought the traces of his remains.

The plan of the city is a trapezium or quadrilateral figure, whose four sides are neither equal nor parallel, being about 1100 yards on the East side, towards the Ozama, near a 1000 yards on the South side, bordering to the sea, and 1900 on the West side, facing the king's meadow, and on the North, towards the village of St. Carlos, and surrounding elevations. The circumference of the town is about 4500 yards, and the main street runs from the principal square to the land gate, or Puerta del Conde. There is another gate that leads into the meadow, near the yellow battery. There are also two marine gates.

At the head of the harbour which it commands, stands Columbus Castle, supposed to be built by Diego; it is now unroofed, the skeleton stone walls only being left; but it still remains in the right of his lineal descent. It appears not to have been completed, and from a winding stone stair case with loop holes, it seems to have been intended for the purposes of defence, as well as residence.

To the West, at two miles distance from the walls, is a beautiful natural grotto called Saint Anna's, in the form of an amphitheatre, with a space in the centre. The surrounding cavities are deeply hollowed under the rock, of various colours and shade, and the arches, which appear like galleries, are supported by pillars formed of the petrifying water which oozes from the roof, and of which some pedestals have not yet reached the ground. This is a curious romantic haunt, and according to tradition was an Indian temple; of which there are several others in the interior and unfrequented parts of the country known to the author, containing some of the relics of the aborigines; but want of time has left them yet unexplored; a household god in granite, and some remnants of their cooking utensils, being all that have yet come into his pos-

session, which are described in the twelfth chapter of this work.

At about the distance of 600 yards from the walls, till the year 1805, stood a beautiful village called Saint Carlos, founded by order of the late King Charles the Fourth, of emigrants brought from the Canary Islands at the expence of government, and called *Isleños*, or Islanders. In that year, all their wooden dwellings were burnt, to clear that commanding spot, when the city was attacked by Des-salines, after whose defeat it was partially rebuilt, and again destroyed by the French on the insurrection of the Spaniards.

This class of inhabitants, amounting to 2000, the most industrious of any in the island, are again collecting in this village; and the un-roofed stone walls, that withstood the fire, are now again converted into convenient and comfortable dwellings. This was the head quarters of the British Army under General Carmichael. The adjacent environs once boasted good gardens, though the grounds are by no means the best; and in the centre stands an elevated white church, which is the first object seen by mariners on their approach from sea. The distant prospect, opposite the harbour, is bounded by elevated and remarkable moun



tains, which may form a point of recognition for any vessel making the port, or driven by the currents below it.

Santiago de los Cavalleros, situated in the interior, is the next large city, and prior to the inroads of Dessalines, in point of riches, appearance, and population, rivalled the capital. It stands at 60 leagues, or four days journey, from it, and forty-five leagues from Cape François. It is situated on a beautiful plain, bounded on one side by an elevation called Cuesta Blanca, from its chalky appearance, on which stands a commanding fort, and on the other, by the Yaque river. The city contains about 12,000 persons and the jurisdiction 8000. The inhabitants are more industrious, civilized and active, from the greater intercourse they have enjoyed with their neighbours; the climate is extremely temperate, the necessaries of life cheap, and the sale of cattle to the French planters had given the graziers a degree of affluence.

About half way from the capital, and leading hither on the main road, are immense ridges of mountains, which nature seems to have placed as barriers between the east and west divisions, and which must necessarily be passed to approach either. On the one called

Sierra Viuda, the defile is so narrow that a handful of men might dispute the passage with an army. Here the Spaniards alone offered to make stand against Dessalines, when he attacked their lines, to drive out the French, and had the latter trusted them with arms, a passage could never have been effected.

Dejabon, founded only thirty years before the late change, is a frontier town on the line of demarcation, and its pastures and culture had already given it a degree of consequence. Its precincts contain about 4000 inhabitants, but the town is still greatly in ruins, from having been long a principal seat of warfare and pillage.

La Conception de la Vega, an ancient city and bishoprick, was destroyed in the year 1564 by an earthquake, when part of the inhabitants retired to Santiago, only 12 leagues distant, and the rest founded a new town two leagues more to the East, which now, with its district, contains 8000 souls. The situation of the old town is one of those romantic places the traveller cannot pass without notice. It is placed in the centre of a valley encircled with hills, and watered by beautiful streamlets. In sight, and at the distance of one league, is the famous Santo Serro, which the Spaniards con-

sider the scene of a great miracle, and on the summit is a convent of Merci Friars; who had formed it into a perfect hermitage, and the cold atmosphere of their gardens once favoured the growth of the principal European fruits. In the town below, are the ruins caused by earthquakes; the remains of convents, churches, and private dwellings, overgrown with creepers, wild shrubbery, and the convolvulus, whose cups receive and give nourishment to thousands of variegated humming-birds, and form, altogether, an interesting scene.

Cotuy, another small town on the same main road, and two days journey nearer the capital, is situated on the banks of the Camu, which joins the Yuna, in descending to the Bay of Samana. It has excellent and fertile plains; and grazing is the chief occupation of its inhabitants, who amount to about 5000 in the whole jurisdiction. There are several other small hamlets and scattered dwellings, which, though there are small chapels in some places, distributed for their convenience, enter into the parochial estimate of the capital, and cannot be particularized.

The other main road that communicates in a westward direction, with the south side of-



Haiti, is also lined with small towns and scattered villages, which with their respective districts bear the following scale of population. Haina 2000, Los Ingenios 2500, Banis and Azua about 3000 each; St. John's, that has a handsome town, 4000 persons, Neyba 1500, Banica, Cahobas, Hinchá and St. Juan de la Atalaya, in all, 7000. The latter place gives title to a Baron, the only distinguishing dignity now extant in the island, though it once had some marquises and counts. This barony was given to a rich grazier of the name of Gusman, by Charles the Fourth, a few years before the cession of the island, and in his charter he is called, *El Baron de la Atalaya*.

On the other side of the Ozama, and east of the capital, the population is proportionably smaller, owing perhaps to its having centered more in the neighbourhood of that quarter where a more immediate sale could be made of cattle. A small village called *Las Minas*, a mile and a half up the river Ozama, contains 500 free persons of colour, and Monte Plata 600. Baya is a neat village, with a handsome church, and holds 200 persons. This was the exile given to the unfortunate Cacique Henrique, where he retired with a few followers, after having failed in his last

patriotic effort to throw off the Spanish yoke, and ease his wretched countrymen of their galling chains. When taken, he was kept a close prisoner, till he obtained the pardon of the Emperor Charles the Sixth; he then withdrew to this solitary spot, and spent the remainder of his days in its quiet retreat.

Bayaguana, more east, counts, with its district, 2000 persons. Seibo, on the main road, an assemblage of graziers, is a handsome town, situated on the margin of a small river, and contains, with its jurisdiction, 5000 souls. The church is a handsome structure of stone. It was here the Spanish patriots first assembled to meet the French General Fer-rand, who was coming against them, and about two leagues nearer the capital on the main road he met with that defeat, on the 7th of November, 1809, which cost him his life, and laid the foundation of their independence.

Higney is the last town of any note to the East, and, with its environs, amounts to 3500 persons. Here stands a handsome and rich church, the only one in the whole island that has escaped pillage. It is the shrine of a very miraculous virgin called the Virgin of Alta Gracia; which the Spaniards visit

in pilgrimage from every quarter and of which the legends are singular and numerous.

The peninsula of Samana, that we have already fully described, contains about 3000 persons, and Savannah la Mar, on the opposite side of the bay, 500. The united districts of Puerto de Plata, and Monte Christi, contain about 6000 persons.

Their aggregate number of militia on list amounts to about 8000 men, but as soon as the country is organized, and the militia law regularly carried into effect, they will reach 12,000. Hitherto they are not in a state of training or discipline, being in want of arms, accoutrements and officers. In general they are strong, active, well-bodied men, and particularly dexterous with the lance on horseback, which they wield with great effect, from their habitual custom of following the wild cattle on the plains. Were they only trained, they would make the best riflemen possible, for besides being habituated to prowl in the woods in search of game, they generally shoot well, and in a country like this the rifle style of discipline, would give them a great superiority over Europeans; but this is a point much neglected, indeed I never saw

a rifle in the whole country. They also handle the sword well, which is put into their hands from the age of 12 years, and never laid aside, but when they sleep. They use it not only for cutting down small timber in the woods, but also for many domestic and even culinary purposes, for they find it equally serviceable in killing and skinning a hog and in peeling a potatoe.

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## CHAP. XI.

### AMUSEMENTS.

**I**F it be a fact that the stile of amusements indicates the character of a nation, it may not be thought foreign to my subject to give those of the American Spaniards a brief consideration. A principal one is cock-fighting, but without spurs, and the English game are much esteemed. The right of holding the cockpit is rented by government, and sunday is the day of exhibition. The proceeds of admittance-prices go to support hospitals of the poor.

The general and national taste however here, as in Old Spain, runs principally on bull-feasts, and in those places where there are no amphitheatres, the avenues to a square are palisadoed, the doors of the houses are closed, the ladies croud the grated windows and flat roofs; yet though the natives of South America are extremely active and nimble, these representations consist more in jading and harassing the poor animal, than in any display of dexterity, and are very unlike those of Spain, a description of which, being strongly illustrative of the national character, will be found in the Appendix (B.)

The Spanish national dances have been marked by most travellers amongst their peculiarities, and appear beyond the imitation of other people, for though they are attempted on our theatres in England, being unaccompanied with a certain association of ideas, they cannot be relished by any other audience, or represented by any other performers than natives; nay, in Spain itself, the sedate Castilian does not exquisitely enjoy the graceful and animated movements of the Andalusian, though he crouds to the dance.

Of all these, the most elegant, scientific, and peculiarly characteristic, is the Bolero.



It affords to the well-formed female the most graceful display of person, as well as dexterity and agility of motion; the dancers beat the castenets with their fingers in time to their feet, going through varied interesting changes and positions, accompanied by the guitar and voice. A great merit in this dance is the *bien parado*, or peculiar position of the two dancers opposite each other, with their arms extended, and one foot in the air; this posture they suddenly seize and hold the moment the different changes have exhausted the tune, and in perfect accord with the last sound of the guitar; the applauses of the audience then most resound. The suitable dress to this national dance is *à lo majo*, as used in the bull-feasts, and any other would be out of character. This dance partakes of the hornpipe of the English, the trescone of the Tuscans, the furlana of the Venetians, the corrente of the Monserrines, and the minuet of the French, and is varied both by slow and quick time.

The fandango is another of their national dances, also performed by a couple, but difficult to conceive by any but a spectator. It is of much quicker time than the bolero, but equally accompanied by the voice and guitar,



and a quick rolling time beat by the castenets at every cadence. The dancers wheel about, approach each other with a fond eagerness, then quickly retire, again approach, whilst every limb appears in such motion as may be called, with propriety, a regular and harmonious convulsion of the whole body, but it is rather a quick equal striking of the feet and toes on the ground, than graceful and continued steps. The *chandè* is the outrè of this dance, but cannot be looked upon with the eye of modesty. Tonadillas, seguedillas, boleros and tyranas are the general national songs, but there are many provincial styles, such as the Malagueña, &c.

These dances though sometimes met in Spanish America, are not those generally used in society; they have adopted the waltz, besides the Spanish country dance, which is extremely graceful, and more complicated, but not so monotonous as our own, though the time is slower.

To visit the dances of the people of colour, particularly those of Haiti, or many who are mixed and blended with the natives of Hispanola, is to be transported into a circle of lascivious bacchantes; the motion of the foot is no longer attended to, the time is beat with

a rapid precision of movement, and volubility of reins, that would almost bid defiance to the powers of mechanism; which though it disgusts by obscenity, astonishes by the gesture and activity displayed.

The lower order of the Spanish people of colour, accompany their grotesque dances with yells, and music created out of slips of hard sounding wood, or a furrowed calabash, scraped quickly with a thin bone; the baujo, rattles made by putting small pebbles into a calabash, the teeth fixed in the jaw-bone of a horse, scraped with rapid motion, and the drum. The steps are singular and obscene; the whole accompaniment and style appear to be derived from the African Congos and Indian Din mixed, and is the usual ceremony on the death of a relation, which they solemnize like the gypsies in Spain, with dances and music. The greatest compliment the lover pays his favourite in the dance for her graceful action, is to put his hat from his own, on her head, to wear during the evening, and which she generally returns by presenting him with a lighted segar, from her own stock.

The dresses of the ladies at their balls or tertulias are fanciful, and generally consist

of a muslin dress sometimes worked in colours, with handsome fringe and tassels at the bottom. Over this they wear a close body or spencer of coloured, often red taffeta, or velvet, embroidered with gold. Their slippers are of embroidered silk, their stockings are of the finest, and often with gold clocks, or sandalled; and the well formed leg and foot, by the shortness of the petticoats, are displayed in luxuriant advantage to the admiring partner. Their hair is generally braided with chains of pearls, or flowers, which forms a contrast with the dark glossy dye, and is confined with several ornamental or gold combs. The women though not handsome have a playful voluptuousness about them which cannot fail at first sight, to please an European, accustomed to the more distant and demure manners, of the society of his own clime, but though they thus attract, they seldom continue to interest. The care of domestic convenience and comfort by no means enters into their department, and they think of little else than dressing to go to the church, or processions in a morning, and the assemblies in the evening.

## CHAP. XII.

INDIANS—THEIR HISTORY—ONE OF THEIR  
IDOLS DESCRIBED—DECLINE AND RISE OF  
HISPANOLA—AND POLICY OF THE FRENCH  
IN THE WEST INDIES.

IN the first years after the discovery of this island, European settlers flocked hither from every part of the mother country, led by the impulse of riches, and baited by the flattering representations of those who returned home with the first samples of gold. Under a sun so benign, and a soil so fertile, establishments rose in every direction, lands were dealt out by grants from the Emperor, the Indians were shared in *repartimientos* amongst the rich and powerful, and taught to till the earth, or dig from its bowels the means of enriching their masters. Cities, palaces, temples and towns, to rival many in Europe, soon swelled upon the sight, and, if we can credit their own historians, in 1504, that is, ten years after the discovery, and during the government of Ovando, there were seventeen towns founded and peopled, all of which,

according to Herrera, had their respective blazons or coats of arms, of which the details are found in his history, taken from the royal grant under date of the 6th December, 1508, but of these, except in the capital, scarcely a local trace is now met with, or recognized by their present respective inhabitants.

Of short duration however was this blaze of prosperity; the natives by whose labour this rapid advance had been made, began to decline; disease and despair fell upon them from all quarters, and consigned them to a fate of wretchedness and toil, in which they were seen to dwindle and decay to a state of progressive misery. Not even the great and benevolent Las Casas could stop the evils which now threatened their extinction, or staunch the bleeding wrongs under which they groaned.

This worthy bishop of Chiappa, was the first who introduced slaves into Santo Domingo by special grant and licence of Charles V. in the year 1517, with a view to spare his favourite Indians, whose cause he pleaded, without interfering with the culture of the new world. But like so many of the exertions of the humane and benevolent, the abuse of the remedy has nearly



proved worse than the disorder it was intended to remove ; and it certainly appears a paradox opposed to the avowed principles of this philanthropist, that he thought the enslaving of the Indians criminal, but that of the Africans palliated by necessity.


To enter on the history of the Indian aborigines of Hispanola, at the time it was discovered by Columbus, were to wander from the line prescribed, nor can we now find a local trace or remains to aid us in substituting fact for conjecture. In vain have I sought some remnant of isolated population, under a wish to obtain a comparative knowledge of their language and traditions, but the names of trees, roots, and insular productions, unknown to us till the arrival of the Europeans, and still preserved in the Spanish jargon of the natives, with those of some rivers and places yet retained, are all the vestiges at present to be found. We sometimes meet with Spanish authors who boast of the fertility and softness of the Indian language, in contradiction to the opinions of the learned missionaries, and of even Condamine, who found in it a poverty of expression, analogous to the confined state of their ideas, and habits of taciturnity ; this we may easily de-



duce from the situation of a people, having little intercourse, and no system or refinement; occupied only in the means of existing, and unable to account for the least phenomena in nature, or to form any classification of ideas and sensations. Many of the Creoles of the main, tell us, that the Indian language is extremely well adapted to express the affections of the soul, and in love matters is highly superior; but as well might they pay the same compliment to the jargon of the Creole French; which being certainly soft, naïve, and filled with infantine modulations, opens a gate to the heart by the key of apparent innocence; and the look of languor, the sigh of desire, and the glow of passion, have in it their accompanying accent; yet it is devoid of regular definitions, and is formed of sounds that cannot be written, although they convey a tone of feeling.

The figure represented in the annexed plate is that of an idol in granite, found in the island of Santo Domingo, and originally worshipped by the natives as an household god. It corresponds perfectly with the description given us by Moore in his learned work called the Hindu pantheon, and answers exactly to the Lingam worship of that peo-

ple, but it may be said to represent it more fully and in a more striking manner, than any idols by him described.

We are told by this learned and celebrated author, that Brahma is the personification of the creative power of the deity, and images were made to it, placed in the temples, and reverently propitiated by offerings and invocations. He is called the framer of the universe and creator of the world. He is also the personification of matter generated, every thing was by him called into creation. In the idol now before us, the Brahma  is represented by a disk, to signify the world over which he presides, which he called into existence, and here the effect is taken to represent the cause which gave it birth.

B. Represents the Yoni, (pudendum muliebri) or mystical creative power. Moore tells us that the real history of these emblems of nature is so veiled in mystery as to render it difficult to give its origin. To the deep searchers into the systems of this mythology they may appear indelicate, but on reflection they will be found symbolical of a first cause, and though their typical representations may argue a want of decorum, the opposite was the character of the Hia-

dus. The Lingam system of worship was said to prevail in families, as is apparent from the household gods of the Indians.

C. Represents the Linga, the symbol of the regeneration, or the phallic emblem of the Greeks, and is in perfect mystical character with that of the Hindus.

On the top of the Linga is placed the head of the god of Prudence, who presided over the moral and physical world, and to whom the Hindus addressed themselves on every undertaking. The countenance is marked in strong expressive traits, the sockets of the eyes are particularly remarkable, and the outlines of feature are not altogether rude, when it is considered that they are carved in the hardest stone, by a people who were unacquainted with the use of edged tools. The coronet is a triad, perhaps, the rude representation of the cebra or hooded serpent. In the back are four divisions to represent the four seasons. The discovery of this curious relic casts a singular light on the history of the worship of the ancient Indians of Hispanola, and is a collateral support of our conjecture, that they sprang from the parent stock of the Asiatics from their communion of worship.

This idol may be considered as the only piece of the kind that has been brought to Europe from Hispanola, and will eventually be deposited in the English Museum. It is about a foot high, and in perfect preservation as represented in the plate. In his second voyage Columbus found amongst the natives of Guadaloupe, two wooden idols, tolerably well carved, with serpents writhing round their feet; but the history of Hispanola is silent on this subject.

No native Indians, as we have remarked in the body of this work, are found remaining in the island of Hispanola, but accident lately brought thither an Indian empiric from the main, who professed to be a man of talents, and who was actually well informed on the subjects relating to his own country, particularly its medicinal herbs, &c. On being shewn this idol, he recognised what it was, and to see the effects that would be produced on the Indian, it was placed in the midst of two or three gentlemen, who began to dance round it, in order the better to convey the idea to the Indian, and to ask him whether that was the way in which it was used by his ancestors. The Indian immediately raged, foamed at the mouth, gnashed his teeth, and appeared in

the greatest paroxysm of fury, till he was convinced that it was not done to ridicule their ancient worship : when pacified, he acknowledged that to this day there are similar figures worshipped by stealth in the interior of South America. Thus do the ignorant address themselves to idols of the divinity fashioned by the hand of man, whilst the sage worships him in spirit.

D. Is a fragment of earthen-ware from the same island, and appears to be the handle or ear of a vase or cooking vessel. The style implies a systematic school of art, and greatly resembles the Egyptian. It represents the monkey's face, (a favourite emblem of the Hindus,) the sides, his ears, and the top, his forehead. Of fragments of a similar nature the author in his researches has been able to collect more than twenty, dug up in various parts of the island, but principally in Samana, most of which were presented by him to Major General Carmichael.

After rising in so short a time to that state of improvement, above sketched, Hispanola became the seat of equipment for the various armaments sent to reduce the neighbouring islands ; different chiefs raised their standards to collect followers against the

main, adventurers flocked from every part of the island, numbers enlisted, some from the individual influence of the leaders, who promised martial glory as the reward of toils, but the most in search of more wealth than they there possessed, for the discovery of mines on that rich continent, with a population capable of working them, appeared to their exaggerated fancies, as a better means of obtaining riches, than the slow progress of tillage, now become the charge of only a few broken down Indians; little armies followed the sound of new enterprise, the population decreased, the nerve of industry was cut asunder, emigration became fashionable and general; Mexico, Yucatan, Florida, Coro, Peru, and Puerto Rico, received hence their first population. The mines and sugar works were deserted, and left to moulder in neglected ruins. European fleets ceased to come in search of cargoes, their government at home seemed to partake of the same sullen sloth and languor that pervaded the remaining settlers in Hispanola; and for several years we find a total blank in the page of their history, and the colony, that twenty years after its discovery, gave considerable revenues to its crown, be-



came a burthen before a century had expired.

The greatest draw-back, however, to its prosperity, and what most accelerated the fall of this country, was the disgrace of Columbus, added to the rebellion of Roldan, and the death of Isabella its patroness. Out of her own purse this magnanimous queen, made the armament for this enterprising navigator, and the seat of his first discoveries she protected with the solicitude of a guardian over a foster child. It was not till her decline in life, that she became acquainted with those base wrongs that had been heaped on the admiral, for whose ungrateful remuneration as well as for the cruel treatment of those helpless natives of the island, whose cause she espoused, the mind feels the most poignant regret. Had her life been only prolonged, most probably their fate would have been bettered, and the history of this country would have been clear from those crimes, that have been recorded for the execration of posterity.

It is a bitter aggravation of human calamity, to have the privilege and bloated power of the undeserving, forced on our observation, and to find others revelling in the

fruits of our own labours ; hence we may judge of the state of those feelings the benign and enlightened discoverer of the Western Hemisphere experienced, when he was denied even admittance to refit, and a landing place in that port and city, which his own family had formed and founded, and when he was again driven out to that less inclement element from which he sought shelter, in the island he had rescued as it were from the chaotic gloom of the undiscovered world : unmindful however of his own injury, or rather stifling with philosophic calmness the ebullitions of his own resentment, if he felt the sting of regret, it was for the downfall he anticipated and dreaded, for this his beloved but infant settlement. His wise and equitable plans he saw overturned and counteracted by Bobadilla, for the colony soon became the seat of cabal, intrigue, and horror, whilst the Indian, with a voice too weak to claim redress from those laws that were humanely framed in Europe for his protection, became the tool and slave of individual aggrandizement, whilst compulsory toil, hardship, and want, quickly cut to the root that branch, on which hung the best source of the country's riches. Thus, as the



fertilizing shower that carries plenty in its bosom, is dispersed by jarring elements, and driven away from the parched valley that awaits its descent, the fostering care of the queen, reflected in Columbus, was impeded in its effects, and the yearnings of her heart for the impending fate of the aborigines, reached not those climes to which they were directed. The cabinet in Europe was at length roused by the rapid declension of their colony, but the alarm was too late, or the means adopted to stop its fall, were too feeble, nor could the wise and politic efforts of Cardinal Ximenez, who soon after came into office, produce redress.

One misfortune seemed to tread on the footsteps of another; in 1586 Sir Francis Drake took, pillaged, and nearly destroyed the capital, in 1666 (still fresh in the memory of the people, and called proverbially the fatal year of the sixes) the small-pox and dysentery raged with destructive fury; and in 1684 an earthquake spread fresh desolation.

Notwithstanding so many colossal obstacles, so many local and extraneous misfortunes that so early eclipsed the rising glory of this already improved and fertile spot; it still

struggled for a secondary existence, which its multiplied resources and great increase of cattle would have yet insured to the nation at large, had not the rotten policy of their own ministers, damped the growing efforts of industry.

Amongst the instances of mistaken and impolitic views that have marked the cabinets of Spain, perhaps none are more observable than that peculiar dread and jealousy of foreigners communicating with any of their settlements abroad. Even in time of war, when it is not in their own power to bring home their own produce, we have seen them suffer the crops of the planters to perish, or at least lose their value, rather than become the speculation of a foreign or neutral merchant, and in this island that singular policy was forcibly felt.

Languishing in a state of abject misery, approaching to annihilation, the natives however began to force a trade with the Dutch and Danish islands, and the English settlements in North America; they bartered cattle, hides, tallow, dye-woods, sugar, indigo, cotton, rocou, cocoa, ginger, and gold dust, for cloathing, arms, and some luxuries, and this clandestine exchange chiefly centred on

the north side of the island, being there less under the controul and immediate eye of government, but producing a traffic for some time active and beneficial.

On information however being sent home of these proceedings, by the officious and perhaps interested representations of the heads in office; one of the most singular edicts was issued, that ever passed the cabinet of a prince, which ordered all the maritime towns at a distance from the capital, where this illicit trade could be traced, to be dismantled and razed; by which act, Monte Christi, Puerto de Plata, Isabella, and several smaller establishments that already boasted good buildings and an increased population, were entirely laid in ruins, and the inhabitants forced to retire into the interior, to found new towns, and erect fresh abodes. This occurred in 1606 and whilst it gave increase to Santiago, La Vega, and Monte Plata, where the homeless fugitives principally took shelter, it damped the ardour of enterprize, and levelled dwellings to the ground, that had cost great labour, time, and money to raise. The mines being closed under the severest penalties, and every source of wealth to the inhabitants, and of local revenue to the crown

dried up, by the discouraging conduct of that government which ought rather to have fostered enterprise and stimulated industry, the small entries from the confined sale of stamp paper, were all that came into the treasury, and the government became obliged to order 300,000 dollars annually to be sent thither from Mexico, to pay its officers and a local militia; the arrival of these funds was always welcomed with the sound of bells. This yearly subsidy existed till the very year of the cession, for the coffers of the treasury were full, from its having been landed a short time before Toussaint took possession, so that about one half of the amount, besides valuable stores, and public revenue, became a prey to the French. This spoil forms a great contrast to what fell to the combined English and Spanish armies, in the late capture of the same city, when the united estimate of the treasury and stores, exclusive of arsenal and brass cannon, fell short of 4000 dollars, and even that was for the most part, property taken in the stores of Spanish inhabitants, whom the French had imprisoned.

Till the year 1595 the footing held by the French in the West division, had been confined to those inroads and singular feats of



personal bravery, recorded in the history of the Flibustiers or Buccaneers, whose history is not connected with our present subject. Though the circumscribed state of population in that quarter, and want of hands to till such an extent of naturally detached country, made its possession apparently of little import to the Spaniards, they nevertheless long resisted any formal settlement, and their incursions for some time kept back the colonizing plans of the French. Assembling however in the small island of Tortuga after their expulsion from St. Christopher by the Spaniards, and being now openly supported by the French government, they effected a lodgement on Hispanola, which they kept, notwithstanding several rencontres of various success which took place between them and the original possessors, and in which the Spanish lancemen distinguished themselves. For the particulars we will refer our readers to the too partial accounts, published by the various French authors who have gone into the details. When the war was declared by France against Holland, the natives sided with the Dutch, and in 1673 Bouerc, then governor of Tortuga, formed plans which he submitted to the cabinet of

Paris, for entirely dispossessing the Spaniards of the whole island, but they all failed, and though they were revived and continued in 1691, they were again defeated, with great slaughter in Savannah Real, under Cussy and Franquesnay, two of the boasted commanders of the French. After this reverse, though commercial views united them politically as neighbours, their old animosities were never obliterated, but subsisted to the last day the French held possession of the country, notwithstanding the great efforts employed, as well to spread the empire of terror, as that of influence.

In whatever view, as respects the principle of justice, the possession of the West end of Hispanola by the French, be considered, it had, by the middle of the 17th century, attained that high degree of cultivation and revenue, which astonished the world, and was never equalled by any European colony abroad. From it, the mother country drew resources, the individual, wealth, and its trade was the best school for seamen. The statement found in the appendix (G.), will give the reader an idea of the value of this part of the island to its mother country, and enable him to form some estimate of

what its trade gained from the Spaniards, for though cultivation was their main resource, their commerce through the Spanish lines was a secondary step to advancement.

These advantages were also reflected on their Eastern neighbours; for it is a well founded axiom in the theory of the economist, that example and intercourse, by contributing to rend asunder the shackles of prejudice, and to dispel the chilling system of monopoly, call forth industry, and give a ten-fold impulse to the stream of action. The force of example roused the cabinet of Madrid, as early as 1700; fresh colonists, at the public expence, were sent out from the Canaries, a people frugal, laborious, and well suited to the climate. The adoption of more politic and economical measures, soon bettered the face of the country. New sources of industry were developed, the rapid increase of agricultural pursuits in their immediate neighbours, called for a great consumption of horned cattle, mules, horses, and tobacco, which gave them an opportunity of improving that branch of wealth, which had hitherto been unnoticed. Their herds being attended to, increased rapidly in their congenial plains and pastures, the

easy and convenient means of sale, gave edge to their own ardour, and the seeds of fresh energy and enterprize began to germinate and unfold.

The old demolished and deserted towns were rebuilt and peopled, new settlements were formed on the frontiers, those of St. Miguel, Hinchu, Dejabon, and Atalaya, rose out of the sale of cattle; the scattered inhabitants were collected into small parishes and congregations, and in every quarter, chapels and hermitages (the first and most sure sign of the progressive state of things in a Spanish country), began to rear their heads.

The capital was rebuilt, a degree of communication and commerce established, and every thing wore the face of comparative abundance and refinement; in short the intercourse which this century introduced, repaired the ravages of the former. In successive wars, their privateers also cruized with considerable success; several guineamen were taken, which gave working hands to the country, other slaves were procured in the French lines, and of the Dutch, in exchange for their own commodities, and the utensils of industry were replaced.



The prudent choice of governors gave a spur to action; men were sent out filled with patriotic zeal for the interest of their nation, amongst whom, Solano may be ranked. Agriculture was encouraged, neutral trade was opened with the Dutch and Danish islands, and again the scowls of want were converted into the smiles of plenty. Monte Christi, that, some years before, we saw dismantled, now received the Royal Indult for ten years of free trade, and the war that existed between England and France, made it a beneficial deposit for both.

Thus had the country revived, though little had yet been done by its government at home, who might have greatly promoted its growth, by more vigorously calling forth its local resources, and tolerating settlers from many of the other barren islands. In 1790, when the Black disturbances of the island commenced, its population, as we have already remarked, exceeded 152,000 souls.

To enter on the details of the revolutions of the French part, were to burden the narrative with a recital of gloomy occurrences, still fresh in the memories of most persons, and already depicted by our own authors. As far as relates to the country

under consideration; these horrors were confined to the French division, nor did their ravages ever pass the frontiers. The most active branch of trade was indeed cut off, some of the herds of the bordering pastures falling a prey to their inroads, and the population from the frontiers, withdrawing for greater safety into the interior; yet from prejudice and national antipathy, their slaves withstood the lure of freedom, and the intrigues that were set on foot amongst them; for it may be confidently asserted, that the Spanish slaves in general are the most orderly in the West Indies, and though surrounded with incentives to revolt, they have uniformly adhered to their masters.

In thus tracing succinctly the historic outlines of this ill-fated country, we have seen it rise and fall with almost an equal degree of rapidity. At one time we have beheld its infant growth reach a state of puberty, when, according to their own historians, particularly the most respectable of them, Oviedo, it sent fleets of treasure to the ports in Europe. We have next marked its decline, and state of languor, which it at length shook off, and assumed a more animated character, by the improvement of a neglected



branch of local resources that accident placed within its reach. We have beheld the impolicy of ministers, conspiring with the destructive hand of pestilence and war, to involve in its fate this valuable colony; but the most distressing and deplorable epoch in its annals, and what the natives most deprecate, yet remains for our consideration.

It has been lately observed by a juvenile author of distinguished merit, that throughout all the changes of government which France has undergone, there has been an unbroken continuity of views and character; and if this is applicable to measures in Europe, it is equally so to their schemes on the other side the ocean. Though busied in plans of universal dominion on their own continent, their cabinet did not lose sight, or cease to entertain a hope of again possessing colonies abroad, and they were well aware which were the most desirable. Perhaps no system of invasion had been longer or more deeply premeditated, and digested with more mysterious secrecy, than the entire subjugation of Spain and her American settlements, in which, besides the common views of aggrandizement, their constitutional enmity to the reigning family, acted as a powerful

stimulus. This policy was coeval with that ambition, which marked the first career of the present ruler of France, and the specious veil, under which the hidden, but continued advances were regularly made towards the end in view, adds to the guilt of duplicity and ingratitude, when we consider that Spain has scrupulously maintained her treaty of alliance, and has fulfilled the stipulations entered into in 1795, notwithstanding all the three changes that have given other names to the French government, without altering its entity or revolutionary and destructive system; that the cabinets of Madrid, have bended to a degree of abject condescension, rather than be precipitated into a new war; that they have sacrificed the interests and inclinations of their people, and have been driven at length into a state of non-reprisal, rather than risk a warfare with a nation they respected, and that though an ally, furnishing both men and money, under promises to share in the conquests made, they have been treated rather as a faithless neutral without claim, representation, or character, and thus their country has been impoverished and laid waste, and the supports of national union and energy, undermined.

The first public instance of this profound design, was evinced in the exchange of Louisiana for the duchy of Parma, which at all times was in their power to regain. This measure followed by that long concerted plan, so much dwelt upon by their best authors, and relished by their ministers, under the *ancien régime*, of depriving the Spaniards of Hispanola.

As early as 1795 it was carried into execution, forming part of the disgraceful treaty made at Basle in Switzerland, which gave the minister Godoy the title of Prince of Peace, and served to consolidate the empire and influence which he afterwards attained, as will be seen from the short outline of his life in the Appendix (D.), and formed the first link of that fatal chain of events, which has since brought his country, to her present awful state of anarchy and confusion.

By this instrument of diplomatic intrigue and subtlety, Hispanola was made over unreservedly to France; the oldest subjects of the Spanish crown, in the Western world, were thus bartered, like so many sheep, and an island, not the capture of an enemy during war, and given up at its termination, but one that had descended to them as a pri-

mitive right, and had formed the glory of the preceding monarchs, who saw it discovered and settled. When possession was given, in farther aggravation of the Spanish natives, the transfer was received by Tous-saint, at the head of the intrusive settlers of one division of the island, with whom the former had previously and generously shared their territory; in short by a horde of emancipated slaves, to whom the French republic had given equality, consistence, and power, and who now came to erect a new standard on the spot consecrated by the labours and ashes of Columbus, and long revered as an object of national pride.

In justice to the Dominican people it may be said, that none of the Spanish settlements possess more of that *amor patriæ* which ought to distinguish loyal subjects; they received the news as a thunder bolt, and the country presented an universal scene of lamentation. They appealed to the humanity of their sovereign, but without effect; and then had recourse to remonstrances.

The island of St. Domingo, had always been considered in the immediate right of the prince of Asturias, and they argued the cession as illegal without his concurrence,

and that of the inhabitants, to whom in second right it belonged, for when it was captured, and in possession of Sir Francis Drake, they ransomed and purchased it back for 60,000 dollars, a fund raised by the aggregate jewels of their wives and daughters, and by them considered equal to the claim of discovery, on which alone the government in Europe founded their title, for the expences incurred, had been fully repaid out of its own bowels. No answer was given to their prayers, perhaps indeed these never pierced the crowds of parasites who surrounded their sovereign, nor found access to that throne, on which they had so great a claim.

Unable to brook this neglect, the men of property and influence left their native island, the object of their enthusiastic attachment, withdrew their negroes, and abandoned their property, rather than be forced to swear allegiance to a power they had been taught from their cradles to detest, or submit to a people, whom they considered as usurpers of one part of the island, now unjustly dispossessing them of the other. The nuns, friars, and clergy, left their convents, churches, and abodes; emigration became general, near one third of the population went over to the

Main, to Cuba, and to Puerto Rico, in search of their own laws, and their own flag.

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## CHAP. XIII.

### OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND BY THE FRENCH, TILL THEIR FINAL EXPULSION BY THE ENG- LISH AND SPANIARDS.

It was not till the latter end of 1801 that legal delivery was made to the representative of the French nation, Toussaint L'Ouverture, who came with a considerable force, to repel the resistance he expected to meet on the part of the Spanish people; which opposing spirit would have yet secured the country, had not Don Joachim Garcia, the then governor, refused arms, and counteracted every thing that could militate against the orders he had received from his master. The entry of the Black general, was not, however, marked by any act inconsistent with justice and decorum; the property of individuals and of



the church was respected. When he retired to his own government in the French part, his brother Paul was placed in command, and continued till January, 1803.

The government of France had scarcely signed that treaty of Amiens, or rather that armed truce, which its authors told us was a peace, of experiment, thought necessary by the victorious dictator, who now assumed the reins, for the consolidation of his own power and political consistency, when the expatriated planters and traders to St. Domingo, to second their own views, set on foot plans, and devised means to turn into their wonted channel, the great resources of their settlements in this island. Every class throughout the nation appeared interested in its recovery, the mania of transatlantic conquest and trade, pervaded the body of the merchants, whose capitals had for so long a time been stagnant, and the government already saw in embryo, revenues which formerly constituted a principal part of its support. The ambitious consul of France, who at that time sought popularity, joined in the public voice; being well aware that inaction did not suit the restless and turbulent spirit of the French, and impressed with the sanguine assurance of

success, he thought this a fit time to rid himself of many individuals whom he mistrusted, and of a part of his armies, who from being commanded by other more favourite officers, were not so much under his own individual controul as he could wish.

The expedition at length sailed, in December, 1802, the military amounting to 35,000 men, under the command of general Le Clerc, his brother-in-law, accompanied by his sister and younger brother Jerome, to whom this conquest was intended as a schooling. The shipping was under the guidance of Admiral Villaret, rendezvousing in the bay of Samana; the branch of the armament intended to take possession of Santo Domingo, amounting, in military, to 700 men, under Kierversan, who was nominated governor, sailed round to the South side, and anchoring in a small bay to windward, sent to sound the state of the town.

Paul Toussaint, who was unprepared for this supercession by any instructions from his brother, felt disposed to resist. But the Black garrison, being weak and scattered, and the numbers of the invading force exaggerated, a Spanish party was formed, which though disarmed of every weapon but their

manchetes, in the night took possession, on a preconcerted plan with the shipping, of the yellow battery at the W. end of the ramparts, and covered the landing of the French. Thus was the city given up, with the loss of only three lives, the Blacks returned to their own lines, and the tricolored flag was planted on its battlements, by the whites.

It is however foreign to our purpose to enter into any further particulars respecting this grand expedition to Haiti, which cost the republic upwards of 50,000 lives, and immense treasures, the recency of occurrences superseding the necessity of further remarks. Suffice it to say, that it proved in every way abortive, and disgraced as it was, by the most atrocious act of duplicity to the great and unfortunate Toussaint, it has given fresh cause of execration to the French name in the island, and impressed truths, that will never be erased from the memories of the natives.

On the general defeat and evacuation of the French troops sent out under Leclerc, General Ferrand, who had been left by Rochambeau in command of Monte Christi, with 200 men, withdrew to the city of Santo Domingo, formed a powerful party, dispossessed Kierversau, who was an older offi-

cer and under the immediate nomination of his government at home, shipped him away, and vested in himself the entire control. This piece of usurpation, so much opposed to strict discipline, and to the great deference expected from subalterns, was never obliterated from the breast of his despotic ruler, until after his gallant defence of the capital against Dessalines, though his services were only then rewarded by the member's cross of the Legion d'Honneur, notwithstanding that his military rank, comported to that of commandant of the same order.

The definitive organization of this country, was by Imperial decree postponed until peace, and in the mean time Ferrand was made commander in chief and administrator general, which charge he held till the 7th of November, 1809, when he was defeated at Seibo by the Spaniards, and obliged to fly, and finding himself hard pressed, his horse tired, and unable to regain the gates of the capital, from which he was at a distance of 12 leagues, he shot himself with a pistol through the head, in order to avoid falling into the hands of the provincialists, whose merited vengeance he dreaded.

The strong hold of Santo Domingo, on account of its locality and territorial produc-

tions, which were eventually anticipated in its tenure, was considered as a rallying spot whenever the French should make advances on Haiti, or direct their views towards the more attractive shores of the Spanish Main. They valued this fortress as a deposit for their heavy baggage, a secure means of supplying their armies with provisions, and in the mean time, of directing their plans of espionage; and from the year 1804 till the time of its capture, in consequence of the existing state of war, though five millions of livres were annually allowed, which, added to its local revenue, defrayed the expence of the island, they considered it trivial, compared with the projected advantages they hoped to realize.

They saw that from among the frugal well seasoned natives of Hispaniola, they could obtain soldiers capable of bearing the fatigue and heat of the climate, of following the Haitian to his inmost recesses, of tracing him to the summit of a mountain, of ferreting him in the fastnesses of his retreat, and hunting him in the almost untrodden wild, for it was early evident that it formed part of the policy and plans of these people, to flee to the mountains, if their towns were attacked;

of this the French were well aware, and did not dislike it, since to them it gave the advantage of meeting their enemy collectively, in the interior, where the climate was best, a desirable object, when once they had obtained the proper men, which the ground and mode of warfare required.

That general system of obtaining plans and information of every thing interesting in foreign countries, which has during the war formed a principal feature in the policy of the French government, and to which many of their great successes may be attributed, has been so recently developed by the work of a late essayist, that it were superfluous to add more. To one however who has had no opportunity of tracing the effects of this system, it would be astonishing to behold the number and variety of plans sent to the depot de la guerre, on the campaigns and projects of Saint Domingo, some of which have been printed, and of others, the plainest traces lately existed in the country.

In order to form an army of 8000 or 10,000 men, qualified to fight their enemy in their own way, it only became necessary to provide officers and arms, so that as early as 1805, all those who had survived the disas-



ters of Leclerc's expedition, and had fled to the neighbouring islands, were ordered to rendezvous and hold themselves in readiness in Santo Domingo, by which means, even at the time of the late capitulation, the officers, compared to the privates, were as one is to twelve. To give greater spread to that influence which they wished to extend over the Spanish inhabitants of the country, French officers were suffered and encouraged to intermarry with the natives, though refused all alliance with their own creoles.

Thus it was, by dragging this people into the horrors of intestine war, and by the extinction of the unconscious natives of one part of the island, that they hoped to get possession of the other, and thereby to found a new empire on the ruins of a state of society, disorganized by their convulsing system, and cemented again by their own impolicy.

Notwithstanding that the cession of the island to the French, guarantied the tenure of all property to its former holders, no sooner were they well established, than edicts were issued to invite the absentees to return, under threats of a general sequestration, and on the expiration of the time

prescribed, the menace was carried into rigid execution. Near five hundred of the houses, estates, and *hatos*, or pasture grounds with herds, were put on the cadastre of sequestration ; for, as we have already observed, the rich and powerful had withdrawn, and the menace proclaimed, could not induce them to abandon their first patriotic resolves. By other decrees it became illegal for absentees to dispose of property by powers of attorney, or to draw any thing from their estates. These, together with the sequestered houses, were let out to officers and favourites, and the surplus of them by the public cryer annually; the grazing grounds were depopulated and laid waste, the dwellings suffered to decay, the negroes sent to other islands to be sold, the church plate melted down, and the poor Spaniard bent under the rod of oppression. The emigrants were thus left to protract a miserable existence in other settlements, were declared out of the protection of the law, whilst many of their best families lived on the small pittance they could collect from charity. Yet this country was not held by right of conquest, it had reverted to the French, by the sanction and compact of the Spanish

government, though without the consent of the natives, their rights were however for this reason, the more solemnly guaranteed. Still we have seen that every thing sacred was trampled under foot, the legal possessors of a rich country, were deprived of their rights and property, and even exposed to indignities. We may judge then of the feelings of this unhappy people, when, by the aid and protection of the British Nation, they were restored to their country and estates; and again saw themselves in possession of their long deserted homes. Te Deums were sung in the different towns of the Main, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, where the poor emigrants were collected, in commemoration of success; the name of George the Third of England, was united to that of the presiding deity of conquest, a partially enthusiastic glow of gratitude was raised, that the French would have well known how to spread, keep alive, and turn to their own account.

Not to wound the prejudices or attempt an act that may tend to violate or intringe their common practices and received systems, must ever be the landmark of those nations and individuals who act in concert, or are allied

with Spaniards, and this caution must ever be observed, till they are modified by other principles, and taught the advantages of intercourse, and a social and refined state of existence. Before possession, or when under control, it is the maxim of the French, to be sedulously careful and cringing on these points, but when once the barrier is leaped, they are generally very prompt in adopting another line of conduct. By this means they fail in conciliating a conquered people, or in assimilating the manners of a nation that has changed its masters. Their conduct subsequent to their entry into Hispanola, served but to irritate the Spaniards, and evince to them, theirs was the reign of terror, and like consequences may be expected even in subjugated Spain. I will mention an instance that occurred in Santiago de los Cavalleros, an inland town of which a description is given in a preceding chapter. General Devaux, who was second in command to Ferrand, had been stationed there with 50 men, to watch the Spaniards, hold the motions of the Haitians in check, and frustrate any views of gaining over their neighbours. We are well aware with what veneration the Spaniards regard their churches, and

the valuable ornaments that shine on their images and altars. These were long a tempting object to the French in this place, but being few amidst a distant but populous part of the country, they resorted to stratagem in order to get them into their possession, which was done by reporting a threatened invasion of the Blacks, and hinting, that the walled capital would be the best deposit for their security. The jewels were sent off without molestation ; other contributions and exactions of horses, cattle and slaves, followed ; almost every personal indignity was offered, and endured by the disarmed Spaniards in silence, though internally roused by the insults and injustice to which they were daily exposed. At length a public prostitute appeared, parading a valuable pearl necklace, that had long been the sacred ornament of a virgin's image in the parochial church, and the most precious of all the jewels they had sent away in full confidence of security, and thus they found the whole plot had been a specious pretext to plunder their temples. They formed a party of one hundred of the most injured, seized some arms, surrounded the French head-quarters in the night, and a conflict

ensued in which many lives were lost, but the French were secured, and sent under an escort of peasantry to the gates of the capital, with an intimation, that if another armed force was sent into the interior, they would, though against their inclinations, call in the Haitians, and change their allegiance. Thus was animosity, bordering on enmity, always kept alive, the French could never trust them with arms, nor was confidence in any way ever established.

The plans of the cabinet of Paris, respecting the West Indies, were not altogether confined to that division of Hispanola, of which they gained possession. In the early stage of horrors and revolutions that devastated the part which the French originally held, the inhabitants fleeing from the sword of rebellion and vengeance, sought refuge in the neighbouring and opposite island of Cuba, and particularly centred in St. Jago, and Baracoa. Upwards of 40,000 whites, persons of colour, and negroes, were at length collected; and, having been stripped of their wealth by their own revolted slaves, now aiming at independence, some of them turned their attention to the planting of coffee and other branches of cul-



ture, and the rest to privateering and carrying on a predatory war in the island passages. Many rich vessels fell a prey to their activity, and fast sailing cruizers, even whole convoys have been distressed by them; and amongst their most valuable captures, were several guineamen. The slaves were sold to their own planters, who had often shares in the equipments. Their habitual industry soon changed the face of the country; many were already in possession of two and three hundred Blacks, which raised the country to a state of affluence, consistency, and power, which it had never before attained in the hands of the Spaniards.

Though so well settled, they were ever restless and devising plots, and drew up in a body long memorials which were transmitted to the emperor, soliciting that half of the island of Cuba, by a line drawn from Trinidad to Baracoa, might be ceded and confirmed in the right of the French, together with the whole of Puerto Rico, where others of their settlers had also formed establishments. Active agents were sent to Paris, provided with funds raised from the subscriptions of both parties, who were directed to make the obtaining of this cession a common cause.

That this project was relished by the French ministers is beyond doubt, but how far it was in reality followed up is uncertain; yet on the authority of their agents, it was announced in the Bulletin of Santo Domingo, and several other official papers, that the cession had actually been agreed upon, and carried into effect by the two governments, and on the strength of it, fresh lands had been purchased. In this way, did they seek to repay the hospitality of the Spaniards, who received them cordially in distress, and allowed them to buy lands and settle amongst them, though the French had often exposed the national honour of the island, by the excesses their privateers committed on their coasts. Abandoning the safe and tried principles of moderation and moral rectitude, they thought dominion always cheaply purchased, with the sacrifice of the rights of nations, it was the basis of their general plan for unlimited control, and in this instance, formed one small link of the long projected chain of universal empire.

No sooner had the national wrongs of the peninsula in Europe, began to spread abroad in Cuba, than the French took alarm at the patriotic feelings testified by the West In-

dian Spaniards, and fearing for their property and personal safety, they assembled at Candelaria, near St. Jago, to oppose their being sent en masse from the island, armed their negroes, and prepared to deluge in blood, the country that had so lately received them with open arms. Their plans were, however, discovered in time, their party proved weak, and they were obliged to quit the country in shame and disgrace, but under the most bitter imprecations of vengeance, most of them retiring to Louisiana.

Seeing themselves thus obliged to leave this quarter, their first project was to form a lodgement on the North side of Hispanola, and penetrate to the capital of Santo Domingo, which yet held out; had they effected this, scenes of horror must have followed, and it might afterwards have cost many valuable lives to dispossess them.

No sooner had the abdication of the king of Spain taken place at Bayonne, than Joseph, assuming his royal robes, sent out new constitutions, regulations, and orders, which, together with his own likeness, were purposefully distributed round; but being received at the Havannah, they were thrown down into the court-yard of the government house, in presence of the Cabildo and officers assem-

bled on the occasion, and there burnt by the public executioner, and the proceedings put on record; an example that has since been followed in Mexico, and other provinces of the Spanish Main. These documents were forwarded to the French governor of Santo Domingo, to be distributed at discretion, and the correspondence occasioned by those sent to Kinderlan, the patriotic governor of St. Jago, is curious, as being a perfect developement of the plans of the French.

As early as the month of October, the occurrences in Spain began to be known in Hispaniola, the provincials assembled in the East end, under Don Juan Sanchez Ramirez, to assert the trampled rights of their beloved Ferdinand, and dislodge the standard of wrong and perfidy that yet insulted the country. Their first outset was crowned by the defeat, before mentioned, of the French general, who sallied out against them; the cause spread, and every sentiment was responsive to the feelings of their injured countrymen in Europe, in addition to their own local wrongs. But when they came regularly to attack, without arms, artillery, or officers, the walls of a fortified city, in which the French were now enclosed, the work could

not go on; the siege lingered from November to July, under accumulated horrors to the inhabitants; the French had many Spaniards within their gates, and took others, who were exposed to the greatest cruelties, and nearly starved; the clergy and persons of note were the greatest victims to the Spanish cause, of whom, the author of these pages was the first, but after seven months of horrible imprisonment, he narrowly escaped with his life, and felt an adequate compensation for all his sufferings, in afterwards penning that capitulation, which gave the city to the combined armies.

Perhaps the annals of no wars, nor of any civil contest, afford examples of more cruelty and horror, than those to which the Spaniards were exposed on this occasion. They were forbidden to go into the streets in search of food, and when they got any, it consisted of horse's, mule's, and ass's flesh, for a pound of which, they frequently paid a dollar; and cats, dogs, and hides bore a proportionate value. They were denied all rations, and when any small cargo of provisions arrived safe, after eluding the vigilance of the blockading cruizers, the clergyman or the father of a family, was sometimes seen kneeling to a

brutal Frenchman, and praying to be allowed to purchase a small share for the wants of his family, but uniformly refused, till all the French had been fully served. Such was the distress to which these natives were reduced by their cruel masters, and such the conduct of that government, which boasted having come amongst them to make them happy, and place them on the scale of civilized and rational beings.

It would be endless to recount the stratagems to which the French resorted, again to rivet the chains of this wretched people, and to secure a country, where wrong and oppression had marked their footsteps, and where they had every thing to fear from the roused energy of its people. They now wielded the weapons of dread and terror, and now recurred to every stretch of artifice and delusion that subtlety could invent. It will suffice, however, to our confined views, to insert the following proclamation, without adding more; and whilst it conveys threats that almost border on barbarism, does not altogether cover the art and weakness that lurk under its forced appeals.

“ L. Barquier, General of Brigade, Commander in chief, Administrator General, and acting as Captain General, &c. To the ci-



devant Spanish inhabitants of the East part of the island of Santo Domingo.

“ It is now six months since you lifted up the standard of rebellion against the French nation, during which time you have rent asunder the bosom of your own country. What then are your hopes in this sinful enterprize? and what have you gained in this equally impious, and insensate war? Your fields are laid waste, your herds destroyed, and you have forced those, who were so lately your friends, to carry death and desolation amongst you. Ingrates! What was wanting to you? Under what government, more paternal and kind, could you wish to live? But I am aware you have been seduced, cruelly deceived. Still how is it, that your eyes are not yet open? Do you perchance wish to sacrifice to the cruel ambition of your chiefs, and to the perfidious counsels of your eternal enemies, (meaning the English), your tranquillity, property, and the existence of your wives and children—in short, every thing that constitutes the happiness of man on earth, and his hopes in the other life? When your chiefs precipitated the destiny of this country, into a tempestuous sea of revolutions, they were not ig-

norant of the horrid futurity they prepared for you; but, in their delirium, they have blindly formed plans, which they will never realize, because, myself and my valorous soldiers have placed ourselves between them, and the attainment of their projects.

“ Insensate men! You have despaired of the clemency of this government; you have not believed my words of peace, for after being traitors to your very benefactors, and perjurers to your own oaths, you have despaired of mercy. But be undeceived, it is yet time, I repeat, it is yet time, for I am too strong to fear you, return to your houses; be peaceable, resume your domestic occupations and labour, and blot out by a prompt submission, all the injury you have done. God wishes not the death of the sinner; he recommends the oblivion of injuries, and his divine law is the guide of all my actions. As a Christian, and representative of the Emperor of the French, I grant you a general and full pardon. Your property shall be respected, you shall be protected and treated as the ancient French; but be quick to avail yourselves of my generous offers, for soon, perhaps, it will be out of my own power to do any thing for you. Returned again to your du-



ties, you will one day bless my clemency, and include my name in those acts of thanks you may address to the omnipotent, who, beyond doubt, wishes to save this country, for which he yet has reserved happiness, and me to be the instrument of his goodness.

Head-quarters Santo Domingo,

April 21, 1809.

(Signed)

BARQUIER\*.

Such was the dreadful situation to which the Spanish natives of the city of Santo Domingo were reduced, the armies of their

\* It would raise a smile in the countenance of the reader, were he acquainted with the person who here speaks so majestically. Said to be a hero of the curling tongs, puny, dapper, and exactly in character, he accompanied Leclerc's expedition, to superintend the hospitals, on which account he was always called in the army, *Le General Syringue* and *Culotte jaune*, from the latter being his favourite dress. Every other officer of rank having fallen a sacrifice to the climate, or the war, he stood out, whilst he enjoyed the colonial and double pay. When Ferrand killed himself after his defeat by the Spaniards, the command devolved on Barquier, and was marked by many acts of cruelty and unjust exaction. In a smart attack on the ramparts, where he was more the spectator than the commander, reclining in slumber on the butt of a cannon, he observed that the roar of guns had the peculiarity of *setting him to sleep*.—See the original of this proclamation in the Appendix.

contending patriots, without the walls, dispirited, and unprovided with necessaries, when the French were summoned to surrender by Capt. Pryce Cumby commanding his Britannic Majesty's naval forces, before that port; and the refusal of the garrison was immediately communicated to the respective commanders in Jamaica.

The commanders saw that if some more effective measures were not adopted, England would lose the merit of all that aid and succour which had been already afforded the Spanish patriots, in a considerable and expensive armament sent up to their aid, and that in the event of the blockading squadron having to leave the grounds, the French would receive those succours for which they had sent to Europe, to the United States, and particularly to Cuba, according to previous arrangements. From these considerations Major General Carmichael, commander of the land forces, calculated the fatal consequence that would result to the combined English and Spanish cause, and the vengeance that would be subsequently inflicted on the patriots of the island, were the enemy not dislodged. With the most laudable and humane zeal he re-



solved to espouse the cause and his own letter to the Spanish General on arriving, will best explain his sentiments.

(Copy.)

*His Majesty's Ship Lark, off Point Abacoa,*

17th June, 1809.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that in consequence of a communication from Vice-Admiral Rowley, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Naval Forces, Jamaica, and having been made acquainted with a summons from Commodore Cumby, Commander of his Britannic Majesty's squadron off Santo Domingo to the Commander in Chief of the French forces, with General Barquier's reply thereto. I considered it my duty to adopt the most efficacious means of giving every aid in my power to the arms of his Catholic Majesty, Ferdinand the Seventh, by assisting your excellency in your zealous operations, and to dispossess the French of the city of Santo Domingo, that it may be restored to its lawful Sovereign.

"For this purpose I have thought proper to form a corps of artillery and infantry, who, in obeying the commands of their King, and maintaining the honour of the British nation, are inspired with a fervent wish to co-

operate by every means in their power, for the glorious cause of the Spanish Patriots.

“ Being informed that the fortifications are very strong, and that the French in reliance upon them, expect reinforcement and supplies, and that the army under your excellency’s command is not sufficiently furnished with artillery, it appeared to me a primary object, to have the means of opening an access to the enemy, and proving to the French the intrepid spirit that will ever animate troops, actuated by loyalty to their beloved sovereign, and real patriotism to their country.

“ Being so far advanced in his Majesty’s ship *Lark*, with a division of the troops that sailed on the 7th instant; I have the pleasure of making an early communication to your Excellency, with an anxious hope, of a speedy interview, to concert measures for the entire expulsion of the French, in this quarter of the globe.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. CARMICHAEL,  
Major-General, &c.

*To His Excellency General Sanchez Ramirez.*

The expedition destined to go on this



service, in all amounting to 1200 men, embarked about the 4th and 7th of June at Jamaica, but owing to adverse winds only part of the divisions arrived before the city on the 26th, and on the following day the Major-General landed at Palenque, and proceeded with his confidential officers to reconnoitre the walls and fortifications which he fully effected on the 29th.

The Major-General then disposed a small body of Spaniards, so as to cut off all communication with fort St. Jerome, which as we have already described, is a strong hold situated two miles W. from the capital, on the main road. After reconnoitring all the works of the Spaniards, and viewing the resources of the country, he took post at the village of St. Carlos, expecting the British light infantry to join him, which from the inclemency of the weather, and swelling of the intervening rivers, was not effected till the 1st of July.

The French general in the mean time, applied to the British commander for a cessation of hostilities, which was refused; and some prisoners having been taken in going to the French outposts, with orders and public and private letters, it appeared, that the

French had determined not to surrender as prisoners of war. The white flag was however kept flying, and another overture being made, the British General, as well to gain time, as to avoid the effusion of blood, which must have ensued in the storming of that place, the enmity of the exasperated Spanish peasantry particularly considered; consented to the meeting of commissioners, but from the difficulty of communicating with the navy, they did not assemble till the 3d of July.

The commissioners on the part of the French, declaring their determination and pointed instructions, never to submit as prisoners of war, the Major-General immediately broke off the negociation, but required a communication with Commodore Cumby commanding the squadron, for the purpose of intimating the rupture, and concerting measures to receive supplies of men, ordnance stores, and provisions, the overflowing of the river Haina, having completely obstructed all intercourse with the distant landing place of Palenque.

On the 4th, a letter was received by the English commander from the Spanish chief, expressing his apprehensions from the severe commencement of the rainy season, respecting

the diseases that prevailed amongst the Spanish troops; representing the dangers that threatened the blockading squadron from the approaching hurricane season of the year, on a coast destitute of shelter; and intreating him to concede in some points of the conditions proposed to the French. The Major-General however was resolved not to yield a single point derogatory to the English and Spanish interests; but saw from existing circumstances, the necessity of bringing the affair to a speedy issue.

There being now reason to believe, from various sources of information, that the object of the French garrison was to gain time, and obtain intelligence by spies and emissaries among the Spaniards, of the number of British forces which had arrived; the Major-General peremptorily refused, on the part of the British, the admission of the propositions made by the French, and in expectation that hostilities would instantly commence, general dispositions both for defence and attack were made, as will be fully seen in General Carmichael's dispatch, Appendix (E) which includes all the particulars relating to the siege and capture.

A capitulation at length being agreed



upon, the forts of St. Jerome and Ozama, with the gate of Condé, were delivered up at twelve o'clock the next day, to the combined English and Spanish troops, and on the 11th of the same month, the French troops, consisting of 1200 effective men, evacuated the city, and laid down their arms as prisoners of war, to 528 British troops, with about 200 Spanish militia, exclusive of armed peasantry and blacks then before the walls. On taking possession it appeared that there were, besides 200 sick or convalescents, 300 militia, and above 400 armed inhabitants. On their walls were 115 serviceable guns, 42 of which were brass, and in their magazines, a large supply of ordnance, engineer-stores, and ammunition, and 14 days provisions. It was ascertained, that in a council of war, previous to the surrender, a sortie and attack upon the British forces at St. Carlos was proposed, and overruled by one voice only.

The difficulty of getting the Spaniards cordially to co-operate in those enterprizes the English have undertaken in their favour, is one of the misfortunes, which have much contributed to the failure of the combined plans of both. That this distrust so often remarked, existed

among the inhabitants of Hispanola, on the arrival of the British to assist them, cannot be denied, and it is equally true, that it was exaggerated by a peculiarly untoward circumstance, which had well nigh proved the destruction of the whole expedition. The poor patriots of Hispanola, as yet unaided by their own government in Europe, deriving no succours from Cuba, and very few from Puerto Rico, procured arms and ammunition from their allies in Jamaica in their outset, which made them doubly sensible of this aid, from their own settlements not having stepped forward in their support. Having now kept the field for five months, without cloathing and medicines for their hospitals, and during that time, being without any funds to meet contingent expences, the wood-cutters came to the aid of the national cause, and contributed mahogany, which was put on board a double decked Spanish polacre, and sent to Kingston for sale. This transaction being in opposition to the English navigation act, notwithstanding the singularity of the case, the polacre and cargo were seized and condemned, and the Spaniards who were unconscious of having committed any impropriety, in thus resorting

to the only means they had in their power, of cloathing their actually naked ranks, received this information, at the very moment the news arrived, of the landing of the British troops, from the very port where the condemnation had taken place. That they at first kept aloof may, after such a circumstance, be easily conceived, and had it not been for the uniformly conciliating address of the British general, the accident might have proved of the most serious consequence, but it is to be hoped, the case will meet with those considerations of justice and generosity, that have ever characterized the policy of this nation.

It is a charge the French have always hinged upon, and often successfully handled, that the views of the English in assisting the Spanish patriots, are interested, and produced more by schemes of their own advantage, than by any congenial feeling; and this occasion of bringing it forward they did not let slip. A caricature was immediately circulated representing an English officer, tendering in one hand to the *sans culotte* Spanish patriots, guns and ammunition, and receiving in the other logs of mahogany; but the timely explanation being applied, this stratagem was



without effect, and the Spaniards, as far as their means would admit, entered cordially into the cause; and though they had been told the English came to take and keep possession of the city, their subsequent conduct proved their undisguised and disinterested views, and only heightened the base artifice employed to misrepresent their benevolent designs.

That this operation was perfectly consonant to their wishes, and highly glorious to the British name, both in the island and on the Spanish Main, in convincing the natives of the sincerity of their conduct, will be evinced from the following letter from the Spanish General to the British Commander in the name of the inhabitants, on his delivering up the city to the patriots; and will serve also, as a contrast to the preceding proclamation of the French.

*Head Quarters, Santo Domingo, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1809.*

“ YOUR EXCELLENCY,

“ It is with sincere regret that I now see approach, the moment of the departure of your Excellency with the brave troops under your command, which you have fixed

for Wednesday the 23d instant, according to your esteemed favour of yesterday, of which I have now the honour to acknowledge the receipt.

“In consequence of the bonds of amity and close alliance, which with mutual satisfaction at the present moment unite the two powerful nations to whom we belong, we feel and consider the subjects of each, as brothers and friends ; a tie the more grateful, from the continual intercourse which for nearly two months I have enjoyed with your Excellency and officers. In the delicate matters it was necessary to discuss both before, and after taking possession of the place, I have experienced your affability and kindness, as well as the patriotism and lively interest with which all have co-operated to sustain the common cause that we defend, admiring in your troops, that valour and constancy, with which they have overcome the difficulties attendant on the fatigues of war, and the correct discipline and good behaviour observed by them since our union ; in such peculiar moments, when these military virtues alone, would have insured to us success over the enemy's garrison then in the place,

and from whence we so happily dislodged them.

All this has served to bind in the strongest manner possible, the existing relations, and to make us feel the sincere affection of relations and friends ; whilst recollections so powerful, only tend to double the regret I anticipate, in losing the amiable company of your Excellency.

“ I assure your Excellency on my part, and in the name of all the inhabitants of this city and island, that the gratitude and obligations we feel for the assistance which personally, and in the name of his Britannic Majesty, you have afforded us, from the beginning, to the happy conclusion of the enterprise, shall ever be indelible ; and we will transmit them to future generations, as a worthy tribute of our regard, still entertaining hopes, that it may be one day in our power to make a return, as well for the good offices of your Excellency, as of that powerful nation which has conferred on us the gratification of possessing so worthy and respectable a guest, whom we have to regret that circumstances have not enabled us to receive and entertain as he deserves. But, as a proof of my personal

attachment, suffer me to assure your Excellency, that I will never cease to address my prayers to the Most High for the prosperity and satisfaction of your Excellency, of whom I remain, with the highest consideration, the most devoted servant and friend.

(Signed) JUAN SANCHEZ RAMIREZ."

*To his Excellency Major General Carmichael, commanding his Britannic Majesty's Troops.*

I certify that the above is a correct copy and translation from the original Spanish.

(Signed) WILLIAM WALTON, Jun. Secretary.

## CHAP. XIV.

ADVANTAGES THAT RESULT TO ENGLAND  
FROM DISPOSSESSING THE FRENCH OF HIS-  
PANOLA.

THE expulsion of the French and subsequent evacuation of the English, was followed by a commercial treaty with the Spaniards, which places the British on a footing with themselves. The annexed is a copy of it.

“ We, the undersigned, Major General Hugh Lyle Carmichael, commanding his Britannic Majesty’s forces, in the island of Santo Domingo ; and Don Juan Sanchez Ramirez, Governor Intendant and Captain General (per interim) of the Spanish part of the island.

“ In consideration of the close alliance and amity between the British and Spanish nations, as also the assistance granted by his Majesty George the third of England, to the representatives and subjects of his most Catholic Majesty Ferdinand the seventh of Spain, for the purpose of restoring these territories to their ancient dominions, as previous to the treaty of Basle, in August,

1795 ; and it having pleased Almighty God to grant success to the united allied forces, by the surrender of the French army :—

“ We, the representatives of our respective sovereigns and nations, by virtue of the powers in us vested, and of the restoration of the country by the right of conquest, before illegally occupied by the French nation, considering the mutual advantage that may result from a commercial intercourse between the two powers, do agree as follows :

“ 1st. That all vessels bearing the flag of Great Britain, and navigated according to law, shall have free access and admission into all the ports under the Spanish Government of this island ; where they shall pay the same duties and imports as those of Spanish vessels, enjoying the rights, liberties, and privileges in navigation and commerce equally with the latter.

“ 2nd. That the persons and property of all British subjects in the Spanish dominions of St. Domingo shall be under the safeguard and protection of the government.

“ 3rd. The contracting parties having taken upon themselves to agree to the aforesaid articles, they are at the same time to be considered only in force for the time being



until submitted to the respective governments of Great Britain and Spain.

“ In witness whereof, we have hereunto affixed our hands and seals, in the government house of the said city of St. Domingo, this 9th day of August, 1809.

(Signed) HUGH LYLE CARMICHAEL, Major General, commanding his Britannic Majesty's forces at St. Domingo.

JUAN SANCHEZ RAMIREZ.

A True Copy,

WILLIAM WALTON, jun. Secretary.”

It is too much the practice of the English statesman, to view the merit of a country, in a national point of view, by the returns of its imports at the custom-house, without any conditional allowance, or collateral addition, and that this is the case with the trade of Hispanola, must be equally confessed. Though no intercourse has till now existed between this island and the merchants of England direct, it does not follow that a productive exchange is impracticable. This the Dutch and Danes experienced in the time of the Spaniards, and the Americans and Danes when the country was in the hands of the

French; and this we may ourselves now continue with threefold advantages.

The preceding chapters having fully explained the nature of the country, and its productions, it is not here necessary to recapitulate the articles it furnishes to commerce. It has justly been remarked, that there are few notions more generally received, and better founded, than that the price of every commodity to the consumer, depends upon the rate at which it can be afforded by the original grower and manufacturer, adding thereto a reasonable profit to the merchant, or middle man; and if reference be made to the list of products the island in question supplies, they will be found, generally, such as are useful in our manufactures, and requisite for home consumption.

In consequence of the failure of territorial productions, mahogany, that had been till then unnoticed, became its staple commodity, and the fineness of its quality will ever give it a decided preference. In the returns of duties and national revenue, submitted to parliament, we find that the importations of mahogany, for the last year,

have paid to government 46,927*l.* when the year preceding it only reached 26,080*l.* an increase that is forcibly striking; yet the greatest results of commercial speculations in that island have not hitherto reached England.

In consequence of the Spaniards having in that country no large vessels, or sailors suited to the navigation of these Northern Seas, we shall not find that their heavy and bulky articles will come to us under their own flags; of late years they have been exported in neutral bottoms, a medium that has proved advantageous, and may now become of great utility also, to the ship-holders of this country. The small speculations that originate locally in St. Thomas's, Curaçao, and Jamaica, have for the last months principally served to supply the country, and carry back its products; so that the importation of all mahogany that does not come from Honduras direct, may be traced to be from the growth of Santo Domingo; besides the principal part of the dye woods, *lignum vitæ*, &c. which come indirectly.

From the year 1804 to 1808, when this country was in possession of the French,

75 vessels, on an average, annually visited her ports with small cargoes, in all amounting to the value of about 150,000*l.* sterling, which they laid out chiefly in woods. Besides this importation, some considerable English prizes circulated in the country, and then found their way to the neighbouring Spanish ports, for consumption. The Danes brought Silesian and English goods, the Americans provisions, wine, and lumber.

The quantity of mahogany this island is capable of furnishing annually, is about 10,000 logs, each containing on an average 300 feet, which would then amount to three millions of superficial feet, but even this year it will exceed that quantity. One third of it goes to the United States, and the remainder comes over to England; but, formerly, a considerable proportion found a market in Hamburgh, Holland, and the Hanseatic Towns, by the way of Curaçao, St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, &c. the supplying of which places with this article, will again become an important branch of trade, from its great existing scarcity on the continent, a benefit we may ourselves anticipate on the return of peace, or pre-

viously, should the future regulations of Bonaparte enumerate this among the articles of importation. The following scale will give the merchant an idea of the quantity and prices of the articles the country affords, and will at the same time imperfectly define the value of the trade, of which an accurate estimate cannot be formed, as the call of each commodity varies, but the quantity might be increased, proportionably, according to the demand.

	<i>Local Rate of Value.</i>	<i>Amount of Duty, War and Permanent.</i>
3,000,900 feet Mahogany, } (two thirds to England) - }	6d. per foot,	£. s. d. 30,416 0 0
500 tons Lignum Vitæ -	60s. per ton	17,700 0 0
500 tons Fustic -	60s.	500 0 0
400 tons Logwood -	120s.	140 0 0
Annual amount, of duties which St. Domingo produc- tions pay in England in war time - - - - }		£. 48,756 0 0

Besides the above enumerated articles, 1,000,000*lbs.* of coffee, partly grown in the island, and partly brought from the west coast of Puerto Rico, are shipped; and in addition, 10,000 hides in hair, mill, ship, and building timber, satin-wood, ebony, red wood, cattle, &c. Cotton and indigo have not yet become an article of culture,

though they bid fair soon to form part of the exports. Tobacco can be had equal to that in Cuba. In Appendix (F) is given a catalogue of an assorted cargo, intended for the direction of the trader to all parts of the Spanish Colonies, and to which reference may be had in selections for this market.

The material advantage however to be derived from the above inserted commercial treaty is, that whilst on the Main, and in the other Spanish Islands, the import duties on goods amount to more than 34 per cent\*, they here do not exceed five, and the exports six per cent. by which means this port might be made a depôt, for all the west coast of Puerto Rico, from whence the course of navigation is as convenient as that pursued in going in search of goods to the city of St. John's, in the east end, which is generally supplied from St. Thomas's. Vessels also come there from the east end of Cuba, as the navigation is in all respects on a parallel with that of the Havannah, and they

\* The present regulations of duties in the Havannah, are 34 per cent. on all foreign goods and articles of luxury; on provisions or articles of necessity 15 per cent.; and on flour three dollars per barrel. Lumber is free; and Spanish goods, in national bottoms, also free.



have an opportunity of bringing small cargoes of their own productions to market.

Britain will find, in her policy with other nations, that it is decidedly advantageous to encourage intercourse with insular countries, as on them she has a double hold, besides the convenience of having ports for her commerce, and harbours for the refitting and victualling of her fleets.

The trader to Honduras, commonly calculates on the loss of one third of the vessels sent thither, in consequence of the bad coast, and heavy surf, which renders the shipping of cargoes extremely difficult. If it be a fact that the importations of grain, and the smuggling traffic, have drained this country of her circulating specie, it will be found that even the small trade of Hispanola, would annually replace part, and it will be worth while to recur to the statement of French exports from their division of the island, inserted in the Appendix (B) in which however are included, the dollars that were sent thither to purchase goods from the Main; and Cuba; but, in that amount of specie, Hispanola may be said to enter for one fourth. Not that the Spaniards in any of the possessions openly permit the shipment of spe-

cie, but there are so many ways of getting it on board, that it is seldom thought necessary to pay the fifteen per cent. exacted by their regulations, on its being taken from the country, nor would the dollars that weigh each an ounce, be the less valuable by being melted into ingots, by which the duty would be saved.

Shut in as the continent of Europe at present is, and enhanced as is the difficulty the English manufacturer there finds in sending his goods to market, it becomes of national interest to increase their consumption elsewhere. The Spanish possessions, as we shall see from subsequent statements, were long principally supplied by German and French goods, of which they are now deprived, and this quantum required falls to the share of England. It being however the fundamental principle of all regular commercial enterprize, to suit the commodities sent, to the wants and taste of the people, and by no means to exceed the consumption of the country, these two criteria ought uniformly to govern the estimate of all shipments made to the Spanish Main, or indeed to any of their islands. A small and judicious selection of goods, commands a greater

profit, than a large quantity of indiscriminate articles, of which perhaps one third are of no local utility whatever. For instance, should we not think it the height of folly, to send out a cargo of tea-pots to a country where tea is only sold in apothecaries shops as a drug, yet of a similar nature are many of the shipments one meets with abroad in these speculative days, when every mechanic and tradesman becomes merchant, not content with the sure and plodding means of acquiring riches his own domestic trade affords. How usual is it at the present moment to hear the adventurer to Buenos Ayres, for example, lament his losses, and curse the resources of the country, yet were he simply to sum up the goods which have been sent thither, and then the population to consume them, he would find the shipments have exceeded it in the ratio of ten to one, and that half of the former, from their kinds and qualities, would not sell there at the best of times.

It is yet fresh in the memory of the British trader who took goods to Spain forty years ago, that when a bale card was offered in the market, as corresponding with a particular package, the Spanish purchaser never thought

of opening it, but without any scruple took the word of the seller, yet now this confidence is entirely lost, owing to so many spurious packages, which have gone amongst them, to the injury of the fair and candid dealer, and the utter destruction of good faith.

To the commercial advantages we have already enumerated as likely to result from a dislodgement of the French garrison from the city and Spanish part of Santo Domingo, we may add others of a political nature.

Since the year 1804 upwards of fifteen of the fastest sailing vessels have been in constant commission from the late French government as privateers, and their yearly depredations in these seas, as well as on the coasts of Cuba, to which they also resorted, may be safely estimated at more than a million of dollars, thus causing distress to the subject, and expence to the British government, which are now terminated by the enemy being deprived of the only port he had in these seas, and by security being thus given to the rising trade of England, with the Spanish settlements.

In an equally important point of view, the service rendered, may be considered as a new

bond to the Spanish Crown, and a fresh testimony to the world, of the fidelity of Britain in the cause of Spain, for though the colony, owing to the impolicy of its administration, did not produce any revenues to the government at home, previous to its cession to France, yet in consequence of its being the first settlement of their ancestors, and the seat of enterprize to Columbus and his followers, the Spaniards regard it with peculiar veneration and respect, and when wrested from them in the year 1795, as we have ready related, they deplored its loss as consecrated ground. What then must have been their gratitude, and how lively must have been the joy of the inhabitants in particular, on being restored to their long lost homes, and again united to their friends and relatives! Beyond doubt the lasting remembrance of such feelings, must add a new link to the alliance of the two countries, and give a stronger impulse to the common cause.

However dark and impenetrable be the future fate of the continent of Europe, it is incumbent on the British cabinet, to guard as much as possible all the Spanish settlements in the western world, to make them impervious to the worming and undermining

schemes of the cabinet of St. Cloud, and by every politic and conciliatory measure, to secure to this country, the benefits of their trade. The empire of commerce is certainly that on which the nation depends, and whatever tends to promote its extension, is a good that benefits all parties.

In case of reverse, it will be of the first utility to encourage emigration to Hispanola; for, as we have before observed, insular connections are the most desirable, inasmuch as they are more easily accessible and better controuled. An increase of population occasions an increase of consumption, and in Hispanola the Englishman may be said to have a peculiar right and reception, founded on the important public services rendered it, which have been favourable to the nation at large, and well deserve to be extended and kept alive. This colony, besides being a barrier to the Main, will decidedly be amongst the first places, that France will attempt to regain, if she has it ever in her power to revisit the West Indian seas, and we are fully enabled, by our experience of her European policy, to perceive how much the prevalence, influence, and prejudice will contribute to assist a conqueror in subjugating



a people. That this bias is, in the Spanish colonies, at present turned against the usurpers of the mother country, is also unquestionable; but it might yet receive a stronger impulse by an intercourse with England, that would teach them the value and sincerity of a people, hitherto misrepresented or unknown to them; would give them that commercial importance they have so long sighed for. If proper persons were placed amongst them, as well to guard the interests of the crown and the nation, as to keep them on the alert against the machinations that are aimed against their peace, existence, and well being, with a view to rob them of those resources their country affords; a nearer and more sympathetic union would be cemented.

To countries of this nature might the disaffected Irish resort, who make religion the cause of their unhappiness, and whose poverty drives them to seek support, in distant and foreign countries. Here might they receive lands of a most fertile nature, on which a single man can with ease raise 6000lbs. of cotton annually, beside the vegetables for his sustenance, and be able to procure the other necessaries of life at the cheapest rate. What

a cheering prospect would these neglected plains then present; their tillers ceasing to struggle with want and wretchedness, new villages would rise in the desert, the trackless wilderness would become the habitation of man, its wild fertility wafted beyond the seas, would again alleviate the wants and distresses of their own native country, by a supply of new materials, and thus, instead of being lost to the state which gave them birth, by this means they would continue to be useful to it, and bear at least a reflected part in its prosperity and advancement. A recurrence to the commercial scale of those countries which afford materials to the cotton manufactures, will prove that this is not a visionary idea; for a colony thus constituted, besides supplying those manufactories with a superior quality of the article, which is what they most want, as leaving a double profit to the nation, it would be found of double service, should fortuitous accidents deprive her of the other main sources; her workmen would no longer be at a stand, and the active spirit of her tradesmen would not languish for the want of raw materials.

What will be the fate of that deluded

and unfortunate country in Europe, it is scarcely possible to foresee; but the campaign before us may perhaps decide. There is yet character and energy in the Spanish people, were their officers only possessed of that unanimity, firmness, and skill, necessary to direct them, and insure success. In point of comparison, there can be little doubt, that the nation at large cordially esteem and respect the English; the sacrifices we have made for their welfare, and in behalf of their sovereign, are not without their due tribute of gratitude; yet it may be regretted, they are not generally, or well known on the other side of the Western ocean, from the great want of communication. In those regions it has, however, been found, that the services rendered their nation by the English, have not been confined to a particular sphere, that they have been equally extended to them, for in their moments of distress, when their mother country was unable to succour and sustain them, and even their own neighbouring settlements kept aloof, in this important struggle, they found that England was ready to fight their battles and able to relieve them, eventually putting them in possession of their

long sighed for country, which will soon produce the happy effects of contented industry, now directed by those who are to receive its fruits.

Long before the present crisis of events, when French intrigue was nevertheless at its greatest stretch; when it had undermined the basis of government, and sought to jaundice the sentiments of the people; the English traveller in Spain, who scarcely dared avow himself as such, before and after the year 1800, found every where the strongest predilections in his favour, and the popular proverb of "*Con todo el mundo guerra, y paz con Inglaterra,*" often made him stop and ponder on the difference that existed between the opinions of the people, and the conduct of their chiefs.

We indeed accuse them justly of languor, but it is more applicable to their leaders, and when the trammels have been placed with so much design, and tightened by time and consummate art, it requires more than human means, more energy even than the conviction of treachery can inspire, to throw them off, particularly in a country, where patriotism has of late been

considered as a crime of a heinous nature, and the want of communication, conveyance of instruction, and means of mutual explanations, have tended much to daunt the ardour of the people, in avenging their own wrongs.

The present age has afforded instances of the stimulus a nation receives from a political change; and certainly the West Indian Spaniards have acquired more energy, and a new bias of character; the magic of French politics is destroyed, and it rests much with us to extend the benefits of the change, by connecting more closely our mutual interests. Should the shock fall heavily on Europe, it will certainly rebound to America, and though it is beyond the stretch of human foresight to describe momentous events, yet, enveloped in the darkness of futurity, it is well for us to be prepared to take advantage of them. Honduras costs annually lives and treasure to secure what Hispanola alone affords, in better quality, whilst Curaçao and St. Thomas's, in the present system of things, no longer possess any local advantages. It might be thought ill-timed to interfere with any thing that clashes with their own interests

and prejudices, or to force into maturity occurrences which are yet in embryo, but it can never be impolitic to increase those mutual relations, which unite countries in amity, and to cultivate those affections which good-will, national interest, and courtesy implant in the heart.



## APPENDIX TO VOL. I.

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(A)

*Survey of the East Coast of South America from Cape Vela to the Orinoko, from actual Observation and the best Authority, intended to assist the Trader in his Access to this part of the Coast.*

### *Caracas.*

THIS division of the east part of the Spanish main, includes the province of Venezuela in the centre, Maracaibo to the west, Guiana to the south, Cumana to the east, and the island of Marguerita to the north east, and bounded by the sea to the north. Its extent of coast is from Cape Vela to Point Paria. It is bounded by Dutch Guiana and Peru to the south, and by the kingdom of Santa Fé to the west.

Caracas is the seat of government, and is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, in 10 degrees 31 minutes north latitude, and 69—3 west longitude from Paris. It was founded in 1567 by Diego Losada. The authority of the Captain-General extends

over Venezuela, Maracaibo, Varinas, Spanish Guiana, Cumana, and the island of Marguerita. The civil power of the royal audience and intendancy, are on an equal footing. The temperature is in general mild, and the weather agreeable.

The valley in which the city of Caracas is built, is of an extent of four leagues, verging East and West, and formed by that great chain of mountains that rise above, and range along the coast from Coro to Cumana. On the north and south, it has also elevations. The space on which the town stands is 2000 square paces, but art has done nothing to level the irregularities of the ground, so that it being placed on a declivity on the back of the first ridge, its streets have a continued and uniform descent and ascent, principally inclining to the north and south.

It is watered by four small rivulets. The first called Guira, bounds it on the south, the second called Anauco laves it to the East, over the latter is thrown a handsome bridge called La Candelaria, which leads to the valley of Chacao. The third is the Caroata, taking a course from north to south, laving the west division. It separates that part of the town called St. John's, with which communication is had, by another stone bridge. The fourth is the Catuche which principally supplies the town with water, that is conveyed for its convenience to several public fountains. There are five small bridges over it of a very inferior order.

The streets like those of modern towns are regular, about 25 feet wide, and paved; their crossings form squares, at a distance of about 300 feet from each other. The town from the surrounding elevations has a handsome white appearance, and

is well built and ornamented in the Spanish style. There are three-public squares which deserve that name, viz. La Plaza Mayor, La Candelaria, and St. Paul's; the other two called the Trinity and Del Lion are very mean. There are besides, six smaller square openings, before their respective churches and convents.

Their mode of building, is as in the city of Santo Domingo, in moulds of about five feet long, and of the width of the wall, in which sand, stones, lime, and a glutinous substance are beat up and mixed, and in time, take the consistency of stone; and when well plastered and coloured appear like it. The walls being thick protect the inside from the heat. The covering of the roofs is of bended tiles.

Their style of furniture though aided by many importations from the English islands, is yet antique, and consists of large gilded chairs and sofas, hangings in damask red silk, gilded bed-posts, heavily carved and ornamented, tables with gilded legs, gilded lustres, &c. The alcova or family bed room as in Spain, opens into the principal apartment or sitting room.

There are no public buildings but those dedicated to religion. The houses of the Captain-General, of the Royal Audience and military hospitals are of indifferent appearance. The barracks are however good buildings, new, elevated, and have a full command of the town, they are capable of containing 2000 men, who are all regulars; the militia having separate apartments.

Caracas is an archbishop's see, that only dates from the year 1803, being till then only a bishopric; the limits of this diocese extend further than the

civil and military jurisdiction. Its original seat was at Coro, established there in 1532.

The cathedral, for so important and large a city, is an inferior building, and has nothing of elegance or merit in architecture, distribution, or finish. It is about 150 feet long on a breadth of 75. The choir is in the middle of the main nave, the altars are rich, and the general ornaments valuable. The only large clock in the town is in the turret of this church. Like the cathedral of Santo Domingo solidity has however been consulted, to avoid the ill effects of earthquakes.

The city is divided into five parishes, that of the cathedral St. Rosalie, St. Paul's, La Candelaria, and La Alta Gracia. There are three convents, viz. Franciscans, Dominicans, and Mercenarians, one house of Oratorians, one hospital of Capuchins ; two nunneries, the Conception and the Carmelites ; and one institution for the education of females. There are also three small oratories, and an hospital for those afflicted with leprosy. The architecture in general of these buildings, is good in the style of those in Spain, but the parochial church of Alta Gracia is the best, and would shine in most towns in Europe.

There is a play-house, but very inferior actors ; indeed the price of entry, which is only one eighth of a dollar, could not afford much better. The pieces in themselves are bad, but the playing worse ; it is nevertheless crowded by both sexes of all ages and conditions. It is a great engine for giving a bias to the politics of the people, and since the changes of government in Spain, many pieces have been played, analogous to the times ; in which the

usurpers of that country have been pourtrayed. There are three tennis courts; the game having been introduced there by the Biscayans. The young common people gamble greatly at billiards, cards, and dice.

In 1802 Caracas contained about 42,000 souls, which enter into the same divisions of classes as we shall describe in speaking of the rest of the main. In the white class, there are six titled persons from Spain, viz. three marquises and three counts. Their women are among the finest, most gay, and sensible of any of the Spanish settlements, and approach the *Gaditanas* in taste of Cadiz more than any other. They are fond of foreigners particularly the English, as was testified by the kind reception given to the governor and officers of Curaçao, in a late excursion thither. It is to be regretted that their natural and lively talents are not cultivated. Their accomplishments, are confined to dancing and singing. The slave attendants are much more numerous than necessary, as this is the principal point of luxury and parade; and a lady well dressed going to church is followed by five or six well dressed negro females: one carrying her carpet to kneel on, another her fan, a third her prayer-book, and a fourth her handkerchief and scent-box. They are extremely handy and instrumental in conveying letters to their mistresses.

There is a college and university united in Caracas for the education of youth. The college was founded by Bishop Gonzales d'Acuña who died in 1682, but in it they teach only latin, philosophy, and theology. Since that period, however, an university has been added, but it is poor, and on a confined scale.

Immense numbers of poor people, amongst whom are many loathsome objects, crowd the streets, and harass the passenger, and this point is perfectly overlooked by the police.

The roads, as in other parts of Spanish America, in this province, are little more than wide paths, which have been opened at no expence, and in the rainy seasons are almost impassable. This may in great measure be owing to the paucity of inhabitants in proportion to such an extent of country, but the most distressing part of travelling, is the want of bridges, and the uncomfortable passage over the rivers by canoes. The want of regular posts is a great impediment to the efforts of trade and mutual communication, and the government who wants to convey an order, or the merchant who wishes to give a piece of information, are generally obliged to send expresses; in which duty some of the military of the former are employed. Some periodical but slow posts indeed go from the capital to some of the large towns, such as, Maracaibo, &c. but the time they take to arrive, render them of no use, and cross ones are entirely unknown. In time of peace there was a monthly packet sailed for the port of Corunna, touching at Puerto Rico, the Havannah, and the Canaries on its route.

The immediate seaport that originally communicated with Caracas, which, as we may have noticed, stands in the interior, was the port of Caravellada, built by the same founder as Caracas in 1568. The town was, however, some years afterwards deserted by its inhabitants, in consequence of an infringement of privilege on the part of government, and they retired to Caracas and Valencia.



Since that time La Guira has been used as the sea-port, though much inferior, and less convenient, being nothing but a bay open to the north, east and west, without shelter, exposed to a heavy swell. There are eight and nine fathoms water at a quarter of a mile from the shore, and the continual agitation of the waves makes lading and unlading dangerous, tardy, and expensive. This is attended with another and great inconvenience, which is, that the sand by the action of the tide is rendered moveable, and deposits on the anchor, rendering it necessary to take it up to examine it frequently, the worm also bites with uncommon keenness.

The town which faces the sea, is protected by several good forts, and has a pretty appearance from the harbour, from being ornamented with verdure, but is extremely sultry, particularly when the wind is from the south, from being shut in by the surrounding mountains, at the foot of which it stands. The stones that sometimes are loosened by the rains, and roll down from the summit, do considerable damage in the city. The streets are narrow, and badly paved, and in no other light can it be considered, than as the landing place for the capital, from which it is distant five short leagues, over a road, in itself rugged, unequal, and bad in rainy seasons. A loaded mule goes it however in six hours, and this is the common mode of conveyance, which may shew the merchant trading thither, the necessity of proportioning his packages.

All goods go to Caracas, where the merchants reside, and where the consumption of the country centres. None but agents and factors live at La Guira to see the goods landed, and sent regularly on.

The arrieros or muleteers are safe, and the conveyance by no means exorbitant.

There is a population of 6000 persons at La Guira, and a small garrison, the whole governed by a Commandant. They have also a few gun-boats on this station. A stranger landing at La Guira waits the permission of the Captain-General to proceed on to Caracas.

### *Puerto Cavello.*

Puerto Cavello is situated thirty leagues to leeward of La Guira by sea, but the distance by land is greater. It lies in a bite a little to windward and near Curaçao, from whence for many years it has derived the principal part of its trade. It indeed owes its origin to the contraband trade, derived from that island, when in the possession of the Dutch. It is in N. latitude 10—20. d. W. lon. 64—30. Borburata a small port one league to the east of Puerto Cavello, was the harbour and town, founded by the king's officers in 1549, and was destined to be the maritime town to supply the whole interior of Venezuela. Puerto Cavello being a point more convenient, and not subject to the immediate inspections of the customs, fishermen and stragglers built huts; many Dutch smugglers were added to them; so that it became rather a village dependant on Curaçao than subject to the Spanish crown. The activity and profits of this trade, soon gave it a degree of consequence, and the people were of the most daring, bold, and enterprising spirit. The Spanish government several times attempted to control them, but all efforts proved ineffectual, and they long retained a degree of independence, con-

tinuing their contraband operations in the face of authority.

Such at least was the situation of this place when the Guipiscoa company, as mentioned in our chapters on the Main, received the exclusive privilege of trading to this quarter of the coast, and sent out their agents. Perceiving the goodness and local convenience of the harbour, they soon chose it for their principal factory, the better to stop that habitual use of contraband, by which the people had so long existed, and it became a chief seat of their operations. The goodness of the harbour, is an advantage that no other on this part of the coast possesses, and we have gone into these details, because it may be a port of secure retreat to vessels which sometimes suffer in the open roads of La Guira ; for from its short distance, and from its leeward position, it is gained in a few hours, and though the West India traders from the English islands are in general well acquainted with these coasts, harbours, and prevailing winds, the European merchant is not, and may derive advantage from these outlines.

The establishment formed here by this privileged Spanish commercial company, and protected by her maritime force, the troops they had in pay, and the support of government, soon changed the face of the town, regular buildings rose, and what before had only been a herd of smugglers, and a collection of even persons, who had many of them escaped from justice in other parts of the Main : now became an industrious and well regulated society, distinguished by enterprise and active commerce. It is however the noted asylum of many turbulent persons, who take refuge from the interior, and has been for many

years the chief place where negro slaves are brought from the islands for sale.

The Guipiscoa company built for their own convenience, a large wharf one hundred feet long, on a width of twelve, and corresponding forts for its defence. They erected large store-houses for the reception of their commodities, and counting-houses for the transaction of their business, which, though the company is extinct, exist to this day, and are rented out for the use of other merchants.

It was the system of this company, which we shall hereafter see, was formed under the Royal grant in the province of Biscay, to employ in their purposes of traffic no other than their own provincials, as well from their being sober, hardy, industrious, and trusty, as from their being better understood, their own dialect forming a secret means of correspondence, besides their mutual adherence so that the preference always given to natives of the same province. In this they were [much like the Scotch; and on this account, we to this day trace so many Biscayans in those places where the company formerly had factories; they it was who navigated their vessels, and transacted their business. Many are found centred in Puerto Cavello, and may be considered amongst the best inhabitants from their regular way of life, and their sober habits of industry; though ages will not deprive them of the jargon of their own northern province, which, like the Catalans, they always talk among themselves, and particularly when they go to purchase from a foreign supercargo, when they make their remarks on the goods, form their calculations and bargains in a language unknown to others; cir-

cumventing by this means often the Creole purchasers who only speak Spanish.

The original scite of the town was a small peninsula, which was formerly almost under water, but which has since been raised by labour. The progress of building has, however, been so rapid, that the principal part of the edifices are now in the back ground, in which direction they have considerably extended. This small peninsula was joined to the main land by a small isthmus; about two hundred yards wide; through it a canal has since been cut, by which means communication has been established with the sea from the south. Over this canal is a bridge, where the principal guard is stationed; and a gate, that is closed every night, so that the insulated part is considered as the town, and the exterior buildings, though by far the most numerous, are looked upon as the suburbs.

The first houses of the latter which stand under the forts of the town, are of irregular construction, from being built without any permission from the king's officers, on grounds belonging to the government. The amount of population in Puerto Cavello, is about 8000 persons. The principal occupation of the whites is commerce and navigation. Though this port was considered in the regulations of Spanish trade, ever since the year 1798 as one of the first class (mayores) that is, one of the ports at which vessels could arrive from the mother country direct, no more than five vessels entered it annually, though there were better than one hundred light vessels employed in the island and smuggling trade, by which means the inhabitants continued their old practices, and were active in every species of en-

terprize, but their commercial pursuits chiefly centred in Curaçao and Jamaica.

Puerto Cavello is the entrepôt for all the West part of the province of Venezuela ; and the jurisdictions of Valentia, St. Carlos, Barquisimeto, St. Philip, the valley of Aragoa, &c. which forming a considerable extent of inland country, are supplied with goods from it, and the chief part of their productions are shipped in its harbour.

In the year 1743 the English lost a considerable number of men here, in an unsuccessful attack by sea and land. This harbour which may be considered as one of the best of the whole Spanish main on this side the continent, is equally convenient for the purposes of trade, and the repairing and building of vessels, for it is well supplied with good timber. In these respects, as we have before observed, it is extremely serviceable to La Guira.

From its situation and quantity of surrounding marsh, covered with mangroves and stagnant waters, the town is not considered healthy. In the back of the suburbs is a long strip of bog, which might be easily drained and filled up, but the inhabitants seem to overlook all these points of convenience and comfort which in Europe are considered so estimable. It is however considered much healthier to be in the harbour on the salt water, than on shore, if the seaman is not suffered to expose himself in the night to the damp air, a relief to which he is too apt to recur, in order to escape from the warmth of a ship's hold, without considering the bad consequences of such temerity. This ought to be the great care of the Captains, as well as to call in a physician of the country, as soon as the first



symptoms of fever appear in any of his crew, but this will never be observed till the British government shall think proper to give it in express charge, to the agents whom they may appoint for the protection of their trade, to prepare lodgings, and provide experienced persons for the reception and treatment of sick seamen, belonging to vessels which trade to these foreign ports, a regulation, by which many lives would be saved, at a trifling expence. The medicine-chest, which by law each vessel is obliged to have, is by no means sufficient, or adequate to dangerous cases of fever from change of climate, and the injudicious administration of it, proves of more injury than benefit. It would shock the humane and charitable at home, who spend annual sums in the support of the aged and infirm, to see so many of their valuable countrymen perish abroad, from want of care and proper assistance; nay, often when disabled, turned adrift by their unfeeling commanders.

The government is superintended by a military commandant, who exercises almost all the civil powers, for there is no cabildo, or municipal government, and the appeals are carried to the Royal Audience of Caracas.

It is remarkable that there are fewer churches at Puerto Cavello than in any town of the same size on the whole Spanish main. One parochial church is all they have, another has been too many years in building, to afford any hopes of its being completed; the walls overgrown with wild shrubbery being all that is to be seen of it. There is no religious convent: there are however two hospitals, one for the military, and the other for poor people.

The garrison is formed of one company from the regiment of Caracas, besides the local militia. There are always a great number of galley-slaves here, employed in the public works.

Coro, the next principal town and port to leeward of Puerto Cavello, is situated in N. latitude 11 and W. lon. 70 at the bottom of the gulf of Venezuela. This was the second settlement made by the Europeans on this coast. It was, in point of prerogative, considered the capital of Venezuela, till the more fertile locality and growth of Caracas occasioned a transfer of all the appendages of government. The first residence of the governor was fixed there in 1576, since which time, no persons of authority, but the bishop and chapter, remained at Coro.

The town is situated on an arid sandy plain, and every indication of verdure pronounces the surrounding soil, to be of the worst kind. Three leagues off, however, are good lands, from whence the town is supplied with necessaries. The inhabitants are not so hospitable or gay as the others of this province; they are extremely punctilious though generally poor, and they pride themselves on being descended from the first conquerors. They amount in all, to 10,000, but possess little activity or enterprise. Some trade is indeed carried on with the islands in mules, hides, goats, coarse pottery, cheese, &c. which are all brought from the interior. Their principal commercial relations are with Curaçao, from which they are distant but a day's sail, and often less.

There are few negro slaves in this quarter, and the work is principally done by Indian labourers. The water that supplies the inhabitants, comes a dis-

tance of two miles on the backs of mules and asses. The town has a very mean appearance, and though the streets are regular they are not paved. There is one parish church, and a small convent of Franciscans. The civil authority is lodged in a cabildo, to which is added a military commandant. This town is situated 80 leagues W. of Caracas, 33 from Barquisimeto, an inland town of some consequence, and 65 from Maracaibo. To the N. of Coro is an isthmus, about a league wide, which unites the peninsula of Paragoana with the main continent. This ranges from the S. W. to N. W. about twenty leagues. It is principally inhabited by Indians and poor peasants of colour, who breed great quantities of cattle, which are shipped off to Curaçao clandestinely; that market being in a great measure supplied with meats and vegetables from this peninsula, which is in sight on a clear day; and from which the open boats cross over.

Proceeding still W. from Caracas, the next port to Coro of any consequence, is Maracaibo. It was founded in consideration of the advantages of position and locality; by orders of the government of Venezuela, and long remained under its domination. In the new division, however, a government was established at Merida, a town of New Granada, situated near the limits which divide that province from Venezuela. Maracaibo then became dependant on it for some time, but afterwards was formed into a capital, and has since given to its district the name of province.

The jurisdiction of the government and provinces of Maracaibo includes a small extent from E. to W. but reaches more than a hundred leagues inland to the

south, where it is bounded by the kingdom of Santa Fé. The government of Rio de la Hacha, which belongs to that of the kingdom of New Grenada, bounds it on the west, the sea to the north, and the province of Venezuela to the east.

The lands near the town are barren as is also the east side of the lake, being principally covered with the prickly pear, and thorns, which evidently indicates its sterility. It is also unhealthy from its low sandy situation.

The town is placed on the left or western side of the lake, and at a distance of six leagues from the sea. The temperature is hot from the inequality and unfrequency of the breezes; the environs are not well watered, nor is the atmosphere refreshed by showers of rain; hence the middle months of the year are almost insupportable, which is the reason that the inhabitants are always bathing in the lake, so much as to make it almost proverbial, that the children are born in it, nor is it so unhealthy as would be imagined, as the Indians, particularly here, live to a great age. Thunder-storms and lightning are frequent, and do considerable damage, being accompanied by rains, which fall in such cataracts as to carry down houses, trees, and every thing found to impede their passage.

The principal part of the town is placed on the side of a small inlet from the main lake, and the other faces to the north along the margin of the great lake, which, opposite the town, is about three leagues in width, but it widens considerably to the south.

The town is a mixture of buildings of wood and

stone, which has a confused appearance, and has been attended with fatal consequences from fire. It is supplied with water from the lake, the quality of the soil affording no other. When the sea breezes last long, and drive up the waves of the ocean it is very brackish, the rich then use rain water, which they collect in cisterns prepared against such an emergency.

The town contains 24,000 inhabitants, many of whom are emigrants from Hispañola. Amongst this class of population, are persons who consider themselves nobles from being descended from the ancient conquerors, or from their forefathers having once held some employment by brevet from the king, which serves to stamp their lineal descent; but though the proudest, they are among the poorest inhabitants.

The habitual custom of being on the lake continually in boats, or swimming in its waters, renders the youth from an early age inclined to sea, and induces them generally to choose the profession of sailors, ship-builders, or fishermen, in which employments they generally excel. The best, most sightly, and well-finished schooners of any of the Spanish Main are built here. The surrounding valleys and plains are well stocked with cattle.

The people of this province are in general lively, animated, and possessed of good talents. Whilst under the tuition of the Jesuits, they produced some distinguished men, but since the expulsion of those ecclesiastics, their education has been much neglected. Their women have been noted by many foreigners, as being more exemplary in their conduct than most of those of the other towns of the Main.

There is one parish church, and another smaller one also destined to public service, besides which, there is one large and well endowed convent of Franciscans, with several smaller chapels. There is a governor at Maracaibo, on the same footing as that at Cumana. The town is in N. latitude 10. 51., W. longitude 70. 15. It was once, with other parts of the coast, plundered by the English under Sir Henry Morgan, who defeated a fleet sent to intercept him.

The lake of Maracaibo yet retains the name of the Indian cacique, who once commanded its district. Its entrance is by a narrow neck from the sea; the lake extends 208 miles in the interior, running south, a width of fifty in many places, and abounds in fish. Several rivers fall into it, and facilitate the conveyance of inland produce. It is of a depth to swim the largest vessels, but this advantage is rendered useless, from a bad and dangerous sand-bar at the entrance, where, in time of the swells, twelve feet will sometimes touch, which makes it necessary often to unload the vessels before they can proceed up.

Gusts of wind, fatal to some of the many canoes with which the bosom of this great natural reservoir is crowded, are sometimes experienced. Gay boats are seen wafting in every direction, and form a lively prospect from the balconies of the houses, which perfectly command the whole.

To the N. E. of the lake, in the most sterile part of its margin, is a hollow, in which is found an inexhaustible quantity of mineral pitch (*pix montana*), which, mixed with tallow, gives a very good bottom to a vessel. The bituminous vapour that rises from this mine, becomes inflamed in the air, and produces



the effect of phosphoric lights in the night, particularly in the hot seasons. These lights are called by the sailors the Maracaibo lanterns, and in navigating the lake, are a good substitute for the compass. The Indians steer by the sun in the day, and by these in the night.

The Spaniards, when they first visited this lake, found a variety of small towns built upon it, on posts of iron wood, hence they called the district Venezuela or little Venice, which name has been extended to the province; but the name of the chief who governed all has been transferred, and perpetuated to the lake. The Indians chose to build upon it, because they considered it more healthy than the country round, and more convenient to their habitual mode of life, which was fishing. The whole of these settlements met the destructive vengeance of Alfinger, in the year 1529, who spread desolation and death amongst their peaceable inhabitants, and spared only four small villages from fire and sword. As this was a remarkable epoch of the province, it may be worthy of remark, and serve as an elucidation of its history.

After the demise of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish and Imperial crowns were united in the person of Charles the fifth. This accession of power, too great to be exercised by an individual, served only to add to the ambition of that monarch. The Spanish history of those days, is filled with contentions between him and the people; for not satisfied with being the greatest sovereign of his age, he wished to be the only one. A succession of battles served but to augment his pride without increasing his glory, and were followed by the depopulation of his states, and

the absolute derangement of his finances. His conduct to the Spanish settlement of Venezuela, is not amongst the least memorable outrages of his reign, and it particularly marks the low ebb to which he had reduced the nation he had been called, under the best auspices, to command.

The commercial house of Weslers, established in Germany, was the richest and most accredited of its day, and in considerable advance to Charles the fifth. Being yet in want of funds, he passed a solemn transfer of the province of Venezuela to the Weslers, as an hereditary fief of the crown, comprehending a district from Cape Vela to Maracapana, with power to extend indefinitely to the south.

The emperor gave the title of governor to the person whom the Weslers sent out to represent them; they received the revenues of the crown, and were distributors of justice. They had also the right of making slaves of all Indians, who would not submit but to force of arms.

From such a treaty, it would be easy to foresee the fatal consequences that must ensue to the sacrificed people, now, as it were, become the property of foreigners, who had no patriotic or national feeling, and even solely intent on reimbursing themselves for the loans they had made. Thus were loyal subjects of the crown of Spain, made over to a parcel of stockjobbing Germans, whom necessity had rendered favourites at the court of Spain, and whose preponderance had well nigh sown the seeds of civil discord.

The execution of this fatal treaty, was confided to Ambrose Alfinger; and another German, of the name of Sailler, was sent second in command; 400 armed ad-

venturers joined them, and they landed at Coro in 1528. Ampues, who had long been governor for the Spaniards, and had founded most of the towns in the province, that were then in a state of advancement, was dismissed by his sovereign; he abandoned all authority to these adventurers, who, thirsting for gold, immediately busied themselves in appropriating the resources of the country.

Alfinger expected to meet with gold mines more abundant than those of Cibao and Mexico, which were at that time famed throughout all Europe; but when he found there were none opened, that the Indians still existed in their retreats, without luxury and without toil, and that the only gold collected, was found partially in the beds of rivers, when he discovered, in short, that his illusive hopes could not be realized, he adopted the plan of penetrating into the interior with his armed force, to pillage the inhabitants, and sell all those who might fall into his hands.

It was then that the Indian towns of the lake of Maracaibo were destroyed, that ravage was spread around, the Indians sold to merchants as slaves, and the whole province converted into a scene of horror and devastation. The perpetrator did not, however, long survive this bloody and inhuman conduct; he was killed by the natives in the year 1531, and met his deserved end in a valley, six leagues from Pamplona, that still bears his name. Two other agents after him maintained nearly the same line of conduct, till the king, roused by the clamours and representations of the people, dispossessed them legally; but the traces of their desolating hand have not been to this day effaced; the name of the German tyrant is

still held in execration, and the thorn thus implanted by the government, yet rankles in the bosom of the people.

As we before remarked, four of these Indian villages escaped destruction, most probably by contribution, and are yet standing, for the iron wood or stakes on which they are built petrify, and endure like stone. They are situated in the East part of the lake, at unequal distances, and have one church built on the water. The Indian inhabitants principally live on fish, and the wild ducks which are caught in abundance on the lake, in the way practised on the lake of Mexico.

This being the last port of consequence on this side the provinces of Caracas and Venezuela, to which we have here confined our allusions, we will return to that part of the coast lying to windward, which equally well deserves a few remarks.

### *Cumana.*

This government is composed of the provinces of Cumana and Barcelona. It is bounded on the North and the East by the sea; on the West by the river Unare, and on the South by the Oronoko. The soil is of a good quality, and, in many parts, a great quantity of marine and mineral salt is found. The part which borders on the Oronoko, is only fit for the breeding of cattle, in which it greatly abounds. The interior of Cumana is crowned by lofty mountains, the most elevated of which is the Tumerequiri, rising 5600 feet above the level of the sea.

In this mountain is found the cavern of Guacharo, famed amongst the Indians. It is immense, and

serves as a retreat to thousands of nocturnal birds, of the species of the *Caprimulgus*, the fat of which forms the famous oil of Guacharo. The surrounding grounds are romantic, and the whole forms a coup d'œil truly noble and majestic. A small river issues out of the cavern, and in the inside is heard the melancholy sound of the birds, supposed by the Indians to contain the souls of those departed, who are doomed to this transmigration, before they pass into another world:

So confirmed was their belief of this circumstance, that the parents or friends of the deceased came to the mouth of the cavern, to listen whether they could distinguish their voices, and discover whether their souls had met with any obstacle in their flight to a happier state; if the voices were not distinguished, the visitants departed home, and celebrated the festival with dances and drunkenness, which was the greatest testimony of their joy. The Indians, who border on the Oronoko, civilized or uncivilized, have the same veneration for this article of their creed as their ancestors could have had, and with them, to descend to the cavern of Guacharo is the same as to die, being analogous to the passing of the Styx among the ancients.

A great quantity of good tobacco is grown in a valley near Cumana, on the king's account. All the productions of this fertile province are shipped to the North by Barcelona and Cumana; to the East, by the gulph of Paria, and to the South, by the Oronoko. Its principal trade is to the island of Trinidad, whose goods and utensils of tillage it takes in return; agriculture being on a rapid increase, nature appears to have done every thing that could be desired for this

province, and to have gifted it with every variety of territorial production. The whole province contains about 100,000 persons, who are spread over a great surface of country, and amongst them are many detached Indian establishments, wherein reside missionaries. The most famous of these is Chaymas, visited lately by Humboldt.

Cumana, which may be considered the oldest town of all Terra Firma, was built by Gonzalo Ocampo, in 1520, about a mile from the sea, on a sandy and arid spot. It stands in about 10. 20. N. latitude, and 64. 20. W. longitude, and is the seat of government; but the governor, nevertheless, depends on the Captain-general of Caracas for every thing that relates to foreign relations and military; and the intendancy of the latter province, equally extends over this in every thing relating to finances and commerce.

To the North of the town is the gulph of Cariaco, formed on one side by the coast of Cumana, and on the other by point Araya. It extends ten leagues to the West, on a width of three. In the middle, the depth is from 90 to 100 fathoms, and being shut in by mountains, the water is smooth like that of a lake, and there are several good landing places in it.

The river Manzanares flows through the town of Cumana, but is only navigable for boats. The anchoring place is to the West of this river, opposite a small rivulet, called Bordones, about a league from the town, to which the merchandize is brought in lighters.

The air is sultry, but the climate is not unhealthy, as it is greatly moderated by the surrounding elevations. On an eminence in the back of the town is the fortress, which forms the sole defence of the place, and has a garrison of 250 regulars.



There is only one parish church, and two convents. The houses are low, and have nothing of solidity, which is owing to the frequency of the late earthquakes. In December 1797, almost all the stone houses were thrown down, and in 1799, a considerable shock was again felt.

The cause of this, by the judicious Humboldt, is ascribed to its proximity to the gulph of Cariaco, whence there appears to be some subterraneous communication with the volcanoes of Cumuenta, which emit great quantities of hydrogen gas, sulphur, and boiling sulphurous waters. It is observable that these earthquakes are felt only after the rains, when the caverns of Cuchivano throw out, during the night, a quantity of inflammable gas, which is visible to the height of 600 feet.

The population of Cumana consists of about 30,000 persons of all colours. This town is, perhaps, on a scale of as rapid advancement as any on the Main, and its inhabitants are noted for a degree of commercial activity and enterprize, which gives a certain ease and affability to the habits and manners of the people, unlike the pride and penury of many other places.

A considerable class of the population is composed of white creoles, who are in general lively and intelligent. Some are agriculturists, others merchants, sailors, or fishermen. The fisheries of Cumana are plentiful, and salt being convenient, they cure a great quantity of fish, with which they supply Carácas, and the neighbouring ports and islands. This branch of trade in the European seas, has always been considered as a source of wealth, and a nursery

for active seamen and laborious subjects; nor is the notion less applicable to the place in question. They collect also a quantity of medicinal herbs.

New Barcelona is a good town, that stands between Caracas and Cumana, founded in 1634, and situated in a plain, on the left bank of the river Neveri, at about a league from its mouth. Its population reaches to 15,000 persons, there is one parish church, and one convent of Franciscans, who have the charge of all the missionaries in this quarter.

The town has a regular appearance, though meanly built; the streets in time of rains are muddy, and in the dry seasons disagreeably dusty. The great quantity of hogs bred in the town, which are always prowling in the streets, render it still more disgusting, and even unhealthy, from the stagnant pools in which they wallow. There is a cabildo for the civil affairs and local police, aided by a military commandant in the nomination of the governor of Cumana, on whom this province, if it may be so called, is dependent.

Activity and enterprize are not so general here as at Cumana, and though the surrounding country is suited to the culture of cotton and cocoa, they raise little for the purposes of trade. This may, however, be owing to the want of negro slaves, of which it is perfectly destitute, for it is a fact proved by long experience, that without their aid, culture will never advance so as to become an object of commerce, and a means of supplying the manufactures with the necessary raw materials. They have principally turned their attention to the raising of cattle, and the herds are abundant and numerous. Besides the quantity exported alive, cargoes of jerked beef are annually sent down to the Havannah, where, for the

feeding of the lower orders, it is in considerable demand, and the hides and tallow are sold to the Americans. A considerable contraband trade is carried on with the island of Trinidad, and the specie that finds an outlet in this way, may be reckoned at a million of dollars annually.

Barcelona stands in N. latitude 10. 10., is about three leagues from Cumana by sea, but from the badness of the circuitous roads, it is more than ten by land.

The small island of Marguerita, by some called *Santa Marguerita de las Caracas*, is in 10. 56. N. latitude, and 64. 12. W. longitude, and is separated from the Main by a strait of 24 miles. It stands to the N. of the main land, at about 68 miles W. of Paria or New Andalusia. Columbus discovered it in his third voyage, in the year 1498, and it was ceded in right of property to a Spaniard of the name of Villalobos, by the emperor, Charles the fifth, in 1524.

There was formerly a pearl fishery on this coast, which produced one pearl, the finest ever seen, valued at £25,000 sterling, and bought by the king of Spain. The increase of this place became sufficiently great to excite the jealousy of the Dutch, who, in 1662, burnt the town, and destroyed the fort that defended it. The badness of its soil would, however, have kept it in a languishing state, for its productions are of a very inferior kind, consisting of little else than wild hogs, and a small quantity of cotton, to the culture of which the sandy strata of earth are in some measure congenial. It might become, under a different system of things, a valuable entrepôt of goods, for being to windward, and near many of the rich,

fertile, and populous provinces that border on the opposite coast, and its local advantages, which are superior to those of Trinidad, might easily be turned to good account.

In the whole extent of this island, there are only three ports, the principal of which is that of Pampatan, situated in the East South East, the second, named Pueblo de la Mar, is one league to leeward of the former, and the third, on the North side, is called Pueblo del Norte. In each there is a small village, of which, the first is the largest, where all the fortifications are placed for the defence of the island.

The principal town, situated almost in the centre of the island, is called Assumption; there are, besides, three villages, each of them bearing the same name of the valley in which it is placed. The amount of population is 14,000, and the principal occupation is fishing. Quantities of turtle are taken, which, with a variety of other fish, are salted, and carried to the neighbouring markets for sale. Many Indians are employed in this labour, who partly live on the island, and partly resort thither in the fishing seasons. Hammocks of a good texture, and said to be superior to any made elsewhere, are woven and plaited in this island, and exported to Trinidad.

### *Spanish Guiana.*

That space of country which is situated between the river Oronoko to the North, and that of the Amazons to the South, bounded by the sea to the East, as far as the 70th degree of W. longitude, is what is properly termed Guiana.

The coast, ranging from the mouth of the Amazons to that of the Oropoko, forms an extent of 120

leagues, in possession of four powers. The Portuguese have the Southern part. Before the treaty of peace made with France in September, 1801, they held the country from the mouth of the Amazons as far as Cape North, to the East of the island of Carpori. By this treaty, the new limits of French and Portuguese Guiana were determined by the river Carapana, which falls into the Amazons in latitude 20° North, above fort Macapa. These limits follow up the river to its source, when they cross over that large chain of mountains near to Rio Blanco, between the degrees of two and three N. latitude.

Portuguese Guiana is consequently situated on the left bank of the Amazons, bounded on the North by the old French possessions, as far as the 55th degree of W. longitude, and confined on the West side with the Spaniards. The equinoctial line is the stipulated limit; but they have so far encroached on the Spanish territories, that their establishments extend thirty-two leagues North of the line, notwithstanding there are forts to repel any usurpation of ground.

French Guiana is bounded to the South by the river Carapana, which falls into the Amazons; to the North, by the Maroni; to the East, by the sea, and to the West, by the Spanish possessions.

Surinam, Essequibo, and Demerara are originally Dutch possessions, bounded on the East, by the sea, on the South, by the river Maroni, on the North, by the river Essequibo, (though they extend as far as cape Nassau), and on the West, by Spanish Guiana. The whole of these have since devolved to the English.

It was long considered as a fact, believed by the Spaniards, who often relied with too great credulity on the reports of the Indians, that in the centre of

Guiana there was a country abounding in gold, in a much greater degree than any yet known, and for this reason they called it El Dorado.

This assurance, supported by the testimonies of so many Indians, made it pass for a fact in the opinions of all; but the distance and danger kept every one back, till Martin Silva obtained powers, bearing date of the 15th of May, 1568, to explore and conquer the countries in possession of the Omegas, Omaguas, and Quinacos tribes of Indians, who were supposed to be in possession of the countries where the massive gold abounded. The right of governing all such discovered country was vested in him for two lives, that is, to descend to his son; and a band of followers was accordingly collected.

Of six hundred Spaniards, who on landing became disgusted with the enterprise, many deserted, and Silva was obliged to begin his march without any other guide than the compass; but steering south from Valencia the point of his departure, after long and wearysome journies through unfrequented forests, and over rivers, sustaining the greatest privations of every nature; after wasting five months in this fruitless effort, he and his companions arrived at Barquisimeto, where the expedition ended.

Far from being dissipated, however, Silva returned to Spain, and collected new followers, who were filled with the idea of immediately getting riches. Profiting by the experience of the past, he landed on the coast of Guiana between the Oronoko and Amazons, from whence he began to penetrate into the interior. This advance was, however, soon stopped by the Caraib Indians, the most warlike and savage of those regions; he withstood several bloody en-

gagements with them, but eventually fell, and with all his hardy and daring companions, became the triumphant feast of their conquerors. Jesuit missionaries were afterwards sent, but, after three years, were obliged to return without having discovered any thing relative to the sought for object. Both Pizarro from Peru, and Pedro Ordaz from Quito sent out expeditions on this fruitless discovery.

Humboldt, who was the most fitted to solve this great and long existing problem, was very desirous in 1800, when he went from Rio Negro to the Oronoko, of exploring Parima, but was deterred by the Guayecas Indians. This tribe, though of the most diminutive size, never exceeding four feet two or three inches, are in their primitive savage condition, and have hitherto resisted both force and the means of persuasion, to adopt a more civilized state of life. It has been, however, proved that there is a great quantity of talc in this quarter of the country, and it is almost presumable that the tradition and belief respecting El Dorado, have arisen from the illusion of the eye, caused by the sun, which produces a brilliancy surpassing the glitter of metals. Even in Hispanola, is found a large ridge of sparkling talc, which, when pulverized, resembles grains of gold, and is used generally in the island, under the name of gold sand, to throw on damp writing.

### *River Oronoko.*

Spanish Guiana, from its fertility, position, and interior communication, appears to be destined, one day, to become the centre of a great trade, of which, the Oronoko may be considered the future parent.



Santo Thomæ, which may be considered the capital of Guiana, was originally built in 1586, on the left side of the Oronoko, at about fifty leagues from its entrance; but having been successively captured and pillaged by the English, Dutch, and French, the town was removed, in 1764, to a distance of ninety leagues from the sea, on the right side of the stream, to a more eligible place, where good fortifications were erected. This is, at present, the central and protecting point of the trade, carried on in these waters.

The sources of this great river are, at present, no more known with certainty to the Spaniards, than those of the Nile were to the world at large, before the travels of the famous Bruce. Father Gumilla, in the map he has left us of this country, places the source to the South West of Santa Fé de Bogota, giving the river a course from thence towards the North. Since the stream has been better explored, this opinion has been discovered to be incorrect, for it has been ascertained that the first waters of the Oronoko, arise near lake Parima, situated more to the South. Some writers indeed say, that it rises from the lake itself, and others from the mountains situated to the North West of it; the latter conjecture is the most probable.

These mountains which rise to the North West of the lake of Parima, are called by the Indians Ibrinoco, and it is natural that, according to their usage, they should have given to this celebrated river the name of the mountains from whence it issued, which the Spaniards have corrupted into Orinoko, and we from them into Oronoko. In support of this hypothesis, it may be further said, that if this stream had come

from lake Parima, they would also 'have given it that same name, which is Indian ; but, as we have before remarked, no person has penetrated further than where the Casquiare issues from the Oronoko, which was visited by the French literati in 1800.

It has long been tenaciously contended by the Spanish missionaries, that the Amazon was not united with the Oronoko, by the Rio Negro, and, notwithstanding the labours of Condamine, and several other learned men, the fact was not established in a way to remove all doubt till 1800, when the point was fully ascertained, and the communication found to exist. Esmeralda is the highest Spanish settlement placed on the Oronoko.

This great river flows through an immense extent of plain land, which it fertilizes in an astonishing degree, but to no purpose, for the greatest part of these regions, is in possession of uncivilized Indians, against whom, armed expeditions would be expensive, laborious, and unsuccessful.

Several rivers of considerable size, mix their waters with the Oronoko, and are confounded in its stream ; the most interesting of these is the Meta, which joins at about thirty leagues below the cataract of Atures. As it is navigable, and descends from the borders of Santa Fé, traversing an immense and interesting country, is valuable as a means to convey to market the productions with which such happy regions abound. This river will again become an interesting object as it once was, before the impolitic measures of the ministry destroyed the efforts of industry and navigation, by forcing all the productions to be carried to Carthagena, a conveyance difficult and expensive, and a sacrifice purchased at the expence of intrigue.

and much opposed to the real interests of the country; for every other article excepting flour and coarse manufactured cottons, were forbidden to be conveyed down the Meta, from the kingdom of Santa Fé to the Oronoko; by which prohibition the inhabitants were greatly injured, it being a death blow to culture, and, of course, detrimental to the revenues of the crown, to the advancement of Guiana, even to their own metropolitan trade, and the general and public prosperity.

The river Apure, from being the next interesting stream that falls into the main river of Oronoko, is worthy of being mentioned; for after rising in another quarter of the kingdom of Santa Fé, it is swelled by the volumes of water that issue from a variety of other rivers, and laves the inmost parts of Venezuela, bringing with it the tributary productions of a variety of populous towns and countries. It is navigable through its course, and falls through several mouths into the common bed of the Oronoko, which it seems to rival in magnitude.

Immense herds of quadrupeds feed on the margins of all these rivers, particularly mules; and all the productions grown in this great bosom of the continent, in all that part of Venezuela called Varinas, are with ease carried down to Guiana, instead of being transported on the backs of mules, over the almost desert roads, to Caracas, and Puerto Cavello, considerations which cannot but inspire the beholder with respectful sentiments of thanksgiving, to the great distributor of the gifts of nature, who besides imparting fertility beyond measure to productions equally unbounded, in the hands of industry, has given them the natural and safe means of conveyance,

means which European nations purchase at the expence of so many millions of treasure.

The junction of the Apure with the Oronoko, is effected about eighty leagues above Santo Thomé; but it would be too diffuse to particularize all the rivers that fall into this magnificent stream, and which, after traversing the country in different directions, join it with their tributary waters.

The Oronoko river is remarkable for rising and falling periodically once a year. It gradually elevates itself during the space of five months, then remains one month stationary; after which, it decreases five months, and in its lowest state continues one month more. These alternate changes are regular, and even invariable, forming a convenience for navigation, unknown in any other river of the earth, and which, if the Mississippi only had, would make it the most valuable in the world.

The Oronoko, at the distance of about forty leagues from the sea, forms a kind of Delta, by the quantity of mouths that issue, leaving a variety of detached islands, and a labyrinth of small inlets to the South and North, along a space of sea coast, that extends upwards of sixty leagues. In all this diversity of mouths and outlets, however, there are only seven which are navigable, and hence the choice of passage is dangerous to any, but the best and most experienced pilots. To choose the wrong channel, would not only be dreadful from the shelves and windings there met with; but might expose the navigator to the cruelties of the Goaraunos Indians, inhabiting these islands. Another material difficulty is that of availing himself of the favourable current, for as this is influenced by the obstructing points, which occasion a

deviation of the stream, it requires both judgment and experience to select the most advantageous.

The first of the seven navigable mouths, is twelve leagues South of the entrance of the river Guara-piche, in the province of Cumana, which falls into the gulph of Paria. This mouth is called the great Manamo, (*grande Manamo*), to distinguish it from the smaller, which joins it near the sea, but is only navigable for boats.

The second is at two leagues to the South East of the first, and is called Flint Channel, or (*canal de Pedernales*). It comes out at the East of the island called Guarisipa, and falls into the sea three leagues South West of Soldier's Island, (*isla del soldado*), which is situated at the South entrance of the gulph of Paria; but this channel is too shallow for large vessels.

The third is called Capure, and is a branch of *Flint Channel*, from which it is detached at about seven or eight leagues from the sea; its entrance is in the South part of the gulph of Paria.

The fourth is Macareo, six leagues more to the South than the preceding one, and is that which serves for communication from Guiana to the island of Trinidad. It is navigable for schooners and brigs, the channel is clean; its outlet is opposite the Erin river in Trinidad, and unites more advantages than any of the others. The Spaniards have purposely neglected to establish good land-marks, and points of recognition on these places, by which policy they keep indeed this navigation in their own hands; but excellent pilots may be obtained, by persons well acquainted with the language and manners of the country.

The fifth entrance is little frequented, as well from its difficulties, as from its vicinity to the savage Indians, before alluded to, and it is called Maruisas, from the tribe that dwells on its margin. It is situated at twelve leagues South of the fourth, or main entrance.

Eighteen leagues still higher is the sixth mouth, navigable for small vessels; but is only a branch of the last, which issues from the great bed of the Oronoko.

Eight leagues to the Southward of this, is what is termed the greatest mouth of the Oronoko, and is called *la boca de los navios*, or the entrance for the large vessels, meaning those of four or five hundred tons. This passage is wide, and so deep at the entrance, that three hundred fathoms find no bottom; but it lessens progressively.

This river, including its windings, takes a course of more than 1400 miles, through a country romantic beyond description, and fertile beyond the wants of man. In one part, where it is narrowest, a rise of more than one hundred feet is observed. The freshness of the water is preserved to a distance of 12 leagues from the sea.

As we have before remarked, there is a periodical rise in the water which takes place regularly about the month of April and terminates about August, and remains all the month of September with the whole volume of water it has received the five preceding months, presenting a scene the most striking and worthy of admiration. It then overflows the low flats and adjacent plains with an equal and rich expanse of water, producing the effect of smaller seas, and leaving a nutritious slime like that of the Nile.

In the early part of October, it again begins to

recede, and falls within its ancient bounds. Fresh islands, and studded groves then appear rising on its bosom, and present to the eye a picturesque contrast from the surrounding hills. When the waters have thus subsided, the turtles seek the sandy shores to deposit their eggs, which hatched by the acquired humidity, and the powerful rays of the sun, produce young. It is then that the Indians come down to the shores, to collect the eggs and catch the turtles, as well to make an oil which they greatly use, as to salt down meats to serve for their subsistence during the other parts of the year. The waters of the Oronoko are potable, and are used often medicinally. Beyond Santo Thome, an adverse current is scarcely felt in ascending the river.

Great quantities of all kinds of fish are taken in this stream. The most singular of them is the *curbinata* or *caraib*-fish which is found to be numerous, but though its meat is good, it is more valued for its other qualities. It is small, and seldom weighs above two pounds, but its estimation arises from two small stones found in the head, where the brain is placed, of a form resembling an almond kernel, and of the perfect colour of a pearl. These small stones are estimated in weight at the same value as gold, owing to their specific virtue of curing all cases of retention of urine. Three grains of this, pulverized, are given in a table spoonful of wine or water, which causes the urine instantly to flow; its repetition in smaller doses is considered as a perfect cure.

The cayman of the Oronoko is larger, and in many particulars, differs from the alligator and crocodile, which in appearance, it most resembles, but



he is heavier, more clumsy, and not so dangerous. He is from 15 to 18 feet long, and his extended mouth is furnished on each side with fangs, or ranges of large sharp teeth. His eyes are piercing and keen, and he just keeps them above water, by which means he sees every thing without being discovered. His skin is protected by thick scales, impenetrable to a musket-ball. He is the devastator of the fish and a terror to man.

The Indians catch them dexterously, and without dread, and eat their flesh ; they wear the teeth strung like beads round their necks. It is believed by this race of people that the caymans and the tigers of the neighbouring woods, frequently have battles, in which the former is often victorious. The cayman always devours his food ashore, for having no tongue or gills, he cannot swallow in the water.

His teeth are considered by the Indians of the Oronoko, as a counterpoison, when pulverized, they are known to be excellent antispasmodics. It is also said that a drop of his gail on the eye, cures the cataract, and removes the films that obstruct the seat of vision, having a perfectly antiophthalmic property.

The grease melted from this animal, applied lukewarm to the ears, has also the virtue of opening the auditory channels, and also produces the same effect on the mesenteric veins and ducts when they are obstructed. It is for this reason sometimes given to those of the Indian tribes who feel any ill effect from their eating the earth, which is practised by many.

The iguana, which is a species of water-lizard, is about two feet and a half long, with a scaly body.

Its meat is relished by the Spaniards and Indians, and thought equal to that of a fowl. The eggs of the female, who lays 25 or 30 at a time, are esteemed by them to be as good as those of the hen, and have a small pellicule that serves as a shell.

The chiquire of the Indians, and guardatinajas of the Spaniards, is another amphibious animal something like a sheep, with reddish hair, and a tail so small that it can hardly be perceived. This animal is eaten by the Spaniards on abstinence days, and is generally found in herds, sometimes coming to the surface of the water to breathe the air. They feed on the fine grass that grows on the margin of the river, where the Indians lay in wait to kill them with arrows; considering their meat the most delicious food.

The lapa or water-pig is of the size of a full grown sucking pig, whose meat it resembles. The hair is a kind of red with white spots. It is extremely shy, feeds on the shore, and in the feasts of the neighbouring Spaniards and Indians, always occupies the first place.

The perro del agua, or water-dog of the Spaniards, resembles the castor in appearance, but the hind feet are flat and membraneous, and the skin soft, and of a grey colour. He lives in the cavities on the water's edge, is extremely dexterous in catching fish, but also feeds on the grass.

The manati is a kind of sea-cow, generally living in the sea, but from going ashore frequently to graze, it is classed among the amphibious animals. Its shape is deformed, but in size it is equal to a bullock, which it resembles, as also in chewing its cud, the head perfectly resembles the cow without horns.

The skin is thicker, the eyes exceeding small, and it has two small flippers or arms without fingers or divisions, with which it pushes itself over the shallows. When pasturing, they often fall a prey to the tigers, and the moanful noise they make when in distress, has caused the French to call them *lamentines*. The female carries her young under her arms, and nourishes them with milk, till grown sufficiently strong to pasture. The meat is extremely fat and tender, and yields a quantity of oil for burning. The Spaniards use soaps made of this flesh as an antivenereal. The ribs are nearly equal to ivory, and its powder is administered to stop the bloody flux.

This appears to be a different animal to the sea-lions found in many other rivers of South America, particularly on the island of wolves, in the river La Plata.

From the preceding considerations, the importance of Guiana to the Spanish empire in America cannot appear problematical, for besides the unparalleled fertility of its soil, and the convenient conveyance in a country watered by the Oronoko, and intersected by upwards of three hundred smaller rivers; it is the only avenue by which an enemy can penetrate into the interior of Venezuela, Varinas, and the kingdom of Santa Fé. Such hostilities are only be repelled at the mouth of the Oronoko which is the key to all. This ought naturally to be the seat of industry and riches, as well as an important military position.

Spanish Guiana from the mouth of the Oronoko to the Portuguese limits, contains a space of about 400 leagues. Its width, at first ninety leagues, does not extend more than thirty leagues to the south,

where it confines with the old Dutch possessions; but it thence widens to more than 150 leagues.

On this great surface of country, there are not more than 36,000 inhabitants, of all conditions and colour, of which 20,000 are Indians under the tuition and guidance of missionaries; 7000 form the population of the capital, and the remaining 9000 are scattered in the other villages and surrounding country. The greatest and central part of the population is in a space beginning at fifty leagues from the sea to a distance of one hundred and thirty up the Oronoko.

This extent of country is divided into upper and lower Guiana, the imaginary line of which is about where the capital stands. The Dutch before the loss of their establishments, had formed considerable relations with the Indians in the interior, and they cemented particularly their political bonds with many of the ferocious tribes of the Caribs, by inculcating and upholding a degree of hatred to the Spaniards, which they used as a tool of flattery to tribes, whose exclusive trade they coveted. The Indians on the Oronoko still preserve the colours presented to them by Sir Walter Raleigh in his adventurous expedition thither.

Catalan missionaries of the Franciscan order, have however been very successful amongst these savages, and many civilized and orderly villages they have formed attest the fact, but the major part of them, have yet presented too much danger in attempts at their spiritual conversion.

Culture, from the habitual indolence of the natives, and a want of proper measures to encourage and stimulate the Indians to the pursuits of industry, as may be well imagined, is still at a very low

ebb, and the productions appear confined to a small quantity of tobacco grown on account of the king, on the river Caroni, in the neighbourhood of St Antonio de Uspata, of an excellent quality ; and an inconsiderable harvest of cotton. Gums of a variety of kinds are found, particularly the copal, as also resins and medicinal plants, which form objects of commerce.

The best criterion of its revenue, may perhaps be the tythes, which do not annually exceed 10,000 dollars. The convent of the Franciscans are said to have belonging to them 150,000 horned cattle, of which a great quantity is annually exported.

There is a governor resident at Santo Thome, but dependent on that of Caracas. The bishop also is established in this town, but there is not in the whole country, a building suitable for the residence of either, or the celebration of divine worship.

## (B)

*General Account of the Bull-Feasts in Spain, from the Journal of the Author during his early Residence in Spain.*

I CANNOT but conceive it an egregious error in those travellers, who have attributed bull feasts, or amphitheatrical entertainments in Spain to the Moors, and stiled them the barbarous relict of their customs. It was not till long after the Christian æra, that Gibraltar was first conquered by Tarick, the famous leader of the African adventurers: but this practice can be traced to epochs long before that period from which we now date; of consequence, if it is an exotic custom, they must owe its origin to the conquest of the Romans, or the imitation of their European neighbours. It cannot be denied that the Spaniards retain to this day many remains of Moorish customs and manners; and it would, perhaps, be more to their credit, if they retained more; for if we may judge from the monuments the latter have left behind them, they possessed the most valuable ideas of architecture, tilling, draining, watering, and laying out grounds; which once made the now rude plains of Grenada a perfect garden, and beautified them beyond our most romantic ideas of an elysium; but amidst all their splendor and dreams of dear-bought happiness, amidst the gaieties of a Bobadil's reign, they did not practise fighting bulls; for their entertainments consisted of hunting, contests of the sword, club and lance, wrestling, &c. at which their jealous dispositions did not suffer their women often to be

present, the very soul of the exercise under our consideration; nor is it the theme of any of the Spanish writers of romance, who have handed down to us their customs. The many remains of Roman architecture in Spain, the circular and oval forms of places, built for exhibitions of this kind, together with the cells, vomitoria, podia, seats, and other yet visible ruins, evince to us, that those conquerors of what they called the *Provincia Cunicularis*, not only spread the glory of their arms amongst this newly subjugated people, but celebrated their victories by triumphal arches, and those public exhibitions, which were common amongst themselves. Few Roman historians have mentioned the amphitheatrical games; and the early annals of the church are filled with the mention of victims, that were exposed both to the contumely of the mob, and the assaults of the lion and the tiger, whilst their liberty and pardon were the rewards of their courage. This was a favourite punishment for their criminals, and at once proves that these masters of the world, of learning and renown, had only advanced a few removes beyond barbarism. Legislation afterwards altered this practice, and the combatants were either hired, or served as volunteers. We are then only at a loss to ascertain why bulls were pitched upon as the tortured object of this practice, which is easily accounted for when we consider the difficulty and expence of obtaining the lion\* and the

\* The lion and tiger, to this day, form part of the tribute of the dependent beys in Africa: and the bagnios and slave prisons are peopled with these savage rangers of the wild, but only for shew; and, to the shocking torture of every feeling of humanity, they are made the inmates of the wretched and equally fettered slave, who is often destined to be their keeper.



tiger alive, particularly after the Moorish conquest when the Spaniards had only a partial access to the shores of Africa, and when they had such ferocious beasts on their own plains, which would afford nearly an equal display of courage, without that extreme of danger.

In tracing the origin of the bull-fight, we find that formerly the most valiant captains of the Lusitanian bands, entered the lists in this ferocious combat. After conquering the Saracen, a Gonsalvo, a Lara, wielded the spear and sword against the dart-enraged bull; their recompence was the smile of approbation from their favourite fair. The greatest merit in her eyes was courage, and the greatest bond in love was the contempt of danger. Arrayed in the scarf their mistresses had embroidered, it was their pride to shew their familiarity with scenes of peril, and the lengths to which they would go for objects incomparably deserving. This spirit was fostered by their generals; it gave a martial fire to their hearts, and counteracted the inert languor and inactivity of the camp. Not such the present champions: their pristine nobleness is fled; they are hirelings, and the traits of their courage are ferocious and butcher-like.

The days chosen for this sport are generally the anniversaries of some saints, with which the calendar is filled; but in the great cities, during the season, it may be seen three times a week. No sooner is the day fixed on for the exhibition, than the news is eagerly spread, and electrifies every class with joy. The topic becomes general, every countenance exults in the glad tidings, and old and young, equally joyous, anticipate the scene. From all parts they crowd to the spot; neither distance nor penury withholds them,

and if government and the police of the individual cities, had not fixed restrictions to these games, the fields would remain untilled and the grapes ungathered.

The bulls intended for the day's sport are brought into the city in the night, when the streets are empty, by means of a tame ox or a cow, which serve as decoys. They are pent up in separate cells, so small that they have not room to turn, and with their heads to the arena. They are here goaded, and rendered furious, by every artificial means.

Already is the amphitheatre crowded by an immense concourse, impatient for the signal to begin. Perhaps not a sight in nature is equal to this of the thronged spectators, clothed in all the gaities and luxuries of dress, filling the progressively rising seats, and almost frantic with pleasure. The eye, enraptured, measures its favourite circle, rows on rows at once swell the grateful focus, and give splendor to the scene. The men are clothed in their short cut-jackets, loaded with innumerable rows of buttons *a lo majo*; with broad brimmed hats, or small high velvet caps; their hair is confined within a silken net, and cloaks of black or scarlet, half envelope their shoulders. The women, whose general street attire is black, now appear decked in all the shewy contrast of colours; gay bunches of ribbons ornament their jet-black hair; the richest mantles flow down their comely waists, over a short-fringed petticoat; and at once give to view forms the most divine; without hiding those soul-enlivening eyes and animated countenances, which allure, enrapture, and command. Costly fans produce an artificially cool atmosphere, and with great *legereté de main*, serve to salute their distant friends. Refreshing drinks and cakes of every kind are handed about by

their attendants; hand-bills announce the particulars of the entertainments, and the different coloured ribbons that are affixed to the bulls' manes, denote their race, progeny, and from whence brought. A gay display of flags wave on the tops of the battlements; those of the nations with whom they are at war being reversed in the most conspicuous place. The shouts of the gay multitude, and the swift-winged rockets that break high in the air, announce the approach of the hour, generally four in the afternoon. The signal trumpet sounds; a company of soldiers, with a lively band of music, enters at the gates, and after forming into a line, clears the arena of its numbers. One of them is then placed at each of the little recesses, made at small distances in the inner palisado, and sufficient to admit the body of the combatants, for whose safety they are intended.

The governor next appears, and the ministers of police are seated nearly over the place where the bulls are confined. Two trumpeters stand behind them, and under their direction the feast is conducted. Every thing in readiness, four champions in different coloured dresses enter the arena on horseback; their legs and thighs are cased in tough leather; in their right hands they bear a long ashen lance, tipped with a small piece of iron, and with their left skilfully manage their steeds. They prance gaily along the circle, make their devoirs to the governor, presidents of the feast, and their individual patrons and protectors. They then range themselves, according to their merit, opposite the first cell, from which the bull is expected to issue; but rather on the left, as the animal from instinct makes his attack on that side. A trumpet again sounds, a trap door is raised, and forth rushes the bel-

lowing monster, astonished, enraged, and frantic, from hunger and frequent goadings. With impetuous onset he rushes on the prepared horsemen, who with his lance repels him to the right or left of his horse. The second champion then follows, invites him to combat, and receives him in the same way. The greatest strength and dexterity are evinced in these frequent onsets, but it often happens that the greater strength of the horned *enragé* overturns both horse and rider, and lays both promiscuously in the dust. Both then often share the frantic revenge of the animal, and are furiously torn, notwithstanding the efforts of the others to get him away and divert him on another side.

He often buries his towering horns in the bodies of both, throws their shattered limbs in the air, and strews them on the arena. More frequently the rider escapes by the recesses in the palisado, and returns remounted, with fresh courage to provoke battle. It is not unusual for one bull to kill several horses; but these animals, particularly in Andalusia, are so noble, that with their entrails dragging on the ground they face the tortured beast, and by their neighing and snorting, seem to enjoy the sport, although not trained to it. Should they prove refractory, the riders cover their eyes with a handkerchief, that they may be unconscious of their danger; though such is the courage and noble spirit of this domestic animal, that this is seldom necessary; but it is grating to every feeling of humanity, that the end of this first of beasts should be perverted by practices so cruel.

After a round of feats of this kind, equally horrid and disgusting, the trumpet again sounds, and the horsemen retire. The foot-combatants then come forth,

gaily dressed, and each bearing a pair of darts in his hands. With these they provoke the furious animal to battle, and when he puts down his head in an attitude to tear them with his horns, they dexterously stick the barbed darts behind his neck, and evade his horns by slipping aside. These *chulitos a pie* croud around him, wound him by incessant darts, and when he goes near the seats he receives showers of small ones from the people. In the tops of these darts, gaily ornamented with coloured paper, fire-works are fixed, which when the match burns down, explode with frequent crackings. He stands with an aspect of rage and terror. His flaming eyes dart around the circle, he seeks objects to sate his rage; they evade him, the place resounds with horrid bellowings, streams of red froth issue from his mouth and nostrils, he paws the blood-stained ground, and in vain shakes his sides and neck to dislodge the galling load. Furious from rage and pain, he bounds across the arena, attempts to climb the *pallisado* and wreak his revenge on every opposing object. Frequently he catches the *chulitos* on his horns, but generally from their great agility they escape, and he only bears away in triumph part of the red garment with which he had been provoked and deceived. I have seen one of these combatants hard pressed by the enraged bull, and apparently without means to escape. He was pent close to the *pallisado*, and no recess at hand. Already had the furious beast stooped to tear him to pieces, and the terrified spectators imagined him horribly mangled on his horns. The active combatant undismayed, and with unexampled presence of mind, put his foot on the forehead of the bull, with one leap was out of danger, and relighting behind the furious animal, seemed to laugh at his unavailing efforts

to catch him, skipping gaily and unhurt away. He then walked round the circle with his hat in his hand, money from all sides was showered down to him from the pleased spectators and his patrons, who always requite an extraordinary display of agility by a collective reward. Formerly a favourite flower from the breast of the fair, or a bunch of ribbons, was thrown down to the victorious champion, and he was happy in that return for the exertion of his courage and agility. When every means of harassing the animal has been exhausted, the trumpet again is blown; the footmen leave the arena; and a single champion steps forth. In his right hand, he bears a double-edged Toledo, and on his left arm a red cloak. After making his obeisance to the spectators, he provokes the bull by holding to him the red garment, and after several evasions of his horns he prepares for the last and most noted exertion of skill in this way. He places himself in a firm position before him, holds his sword obliquely, on which the maddening beast rushes with such impetuosity as to bury it to the hilt. Already the staggering bull bellows with agonizing pain, streams of black gore burst from the wound and mouth, his haggard looks proclaim his tortured state; the dreadful steel entering at the collar bone has searched the source of life, his feeble limbs deny support, he sinks and struggles in the dust. The vast circle, re-echoes with incessant peals of applause, and frantic acclamations, such as resounded at the Olympic games of the Greeks, or the gladiatorial scenes of the Romans. The most lively and animated music joins the loud sound, but is nearly drowned by the plaudits of the mob. Three mules yoked together, and ornamented with gay streamers, drag the mangled and bloody carcase from the arena, and every prepara-

tion is made for a repetition of the same sport, which only varies according to the courage of the men, and the fury of the bull.

Ten or sixteen are often killed in an evening, and the amusement from neither its sameness, nor disgusting scenes appears to tire. As many horses often fall, and men are frequently killed or maimed. Romero was the most famous *matador* the Spaniards ever had, and his end was shocking. The meat is exposed for sale, but bought only by the common people. The scene is often varied by the fighting of two horses, which is indeed grand, and though horrid, has something in it noble and fierce. They sometimes let loose the wild boar, the stag, and other animals, to fight dogs, and if a bull will not face the combatants, dogs are let loose upon him, which becomes quite an English bull bait. The last bull is *emborado*, or his horns are tipped with wood; the common people all rush out, cling to the horns and tail, and wrestle with him in bodies. The entertainment is often closed with fire-works, and the interval is agreeably filled up by all the men striking their flints and steels which they always carry, and which give a most curious gleam around. Part of the funds arising from these entertainments belongs to the hospitals of St. John of God, the other pays the expences. The amphitheatre in Cadiz is of wood, holds ten or twelve thousand people, and belongs to the city. It is rented to a company under great restrictions, but this cannot hinder frequent impositions on the public. Those in Madrid, Seville, and Grenada, are of stone, and of royal foundation. In the smaller cities, which have none, they use the market-squares, but on a very paltry scale. Indians from South America often display their feats with a leathern



strong, with which they dexterously entangle the bull and throw him on his back ; when they mount, and by their dexterity render vain the exertions of the animal to shake off the unusual load. Many gypsies are amongst the foot combatants. Their pay is from ten to sixty dollars an afternoon, according to merit. That side of the amphitheatre on which the afternoon sun beats, is only half price. There is a small difference in the several cities, but in all, these are the leading traits.

To foreigners, accustomed to see the dexterous feats of equestrians, such diversions appear uninteresting and barbarous ; and from the continual danger to which the riders and the horses are exposed, the feeling mind can derive no satisfaction. Even in this age of refined philosophy, man seems to be glad to multiply means for the extinction of his own species, which, from the brute creation, he might learn to husband. This familiarity with scenes of blood darkens the traits of the national character ; and were a revolution to agitate the people, it would possibly be more sanguine than we have yet witnessed. Government has often wished to abolish this practice ; but in vain, it is so generally relished. It is astonishing that the Spanish ladies enjoy this sport, so savagely monotonous. Possessed of susceptibility and the finest feelings in nature, with every sense in unison with delicacy and sentiment, one would imagine they would fly it as a bane : still do they frequent it, a contradiction, which neither the moralist, nor the keen observer can reconcile or combine.

(C)

*Merchandize landed in the various ports of France,  
from the island of Santo Domingo, in the year 1789.*

Millions.	Thousands.	Hundreds.	Packages.	Commodities and Products.
84	617	328	Pounds	Coffee.
	217	463	Casks	Sugars, white and brown.
		5836	Ditto.	Molasses.
	3257	610	Pounds	Indigo.
	1536	017	Ditto.	Cocoa.
11	317	226	Ditto.	Cotton Wool.
		1514	Serons	Spanish Cochineal.
		6814	Tons	Logwood, Fustic, Nicaragua wood, Lignum Vitæ.
		1865	Ditto.	Mahogany.
	4618		Bags	Black Pepper.
	2426		Ditto.	Ginger.
		380	Casks	Gums, Clema, Guaiacum, &c.
		248	Boxes	Aloes, Cassia, China Root.
	26	948	Hides	Tanned.
	114	639	Ditto.	In the hair, from the Spaniards.
		4167	Pounds	Tortoise shell.
	27	812	Barrels	Syrop.
		1346	Boxes	Sweetmeats.
		1478	Serons	Jesuits Bark, Quinquina.
2	617	530	Dollars	Spanish coined, hard Dollars.
	57	218	Ounces	Gold in Grains, &c. from the Spaniards.

Total value of the above products, when landed in France, and before the French duties had been paid thereon. £6,094,230 English money.

The number of vessels employed, in the year 1789, from the different ports of France, viz. Bourdeaux, Nantes, Marseilles, Havre de Grace, Dunkirk, &c.,

immediately to French St. Domingo, amounted to 710 vessels, navigated by 18,460 mariners, and their whole measurement equal to 213,540 tons. The cargoes which they carried out, consisted of the following manufactures, and other commodities; stuffs for dresses of the religious men and women in the Spanish convents, superfine woollen cloths, coarse woollen cloths, woollen stuffs, white French linens of all qualities, gold and silver laces, white and black thread laces, white and black silk laces, printed calicoes in beautiful patterns, from Switzerland, calicoes printed in France and in Flanders, baizes, crapes, white flannels, coarse Rouen checks for negroes, in great quantities, large handkerchiefs for head dresses of negro men and women, and people of colour, Madras handkerchiefs, handkerchiefs for snuff takers, millinery goods of all kinds, made up in Paris, newest fashions, vast variety of silk goods manufactured at Lyons, German and Silesia linens in prodigious quantities, also German and French Osnaburghs, silk, thread, and cotton stockings, haberdashery, white dimities, ginghams striped and checked, velvets, velvurets, cordurois, white and dyed Indian jeans, white muslinetts various patterns, white muslins plain, sprigged and tamboured, white quiltings, white counterpanes and bed quilts, towelling, table cloths of all sizes and patterns, tapes, threads, sewing silks of all colours, hats, slops, sail cloth, twine, fishing tackle, cotton bagging, ropes and stores for shipping, watches, clocks, jewellery, silver plate for families, ornaments for churches, ironmongery, cutlery, guns, pistols, swords, workmen's tools, planter's tools, machinery for plantations, nails, hoes, tin ware, earthenware properly assorted, copper sheathing, and

copper bolts, saddlery for military, private use, and plantations, books, stationary, writing paper, great quantities of flour in casks, salt beef, pork, hams, salt fish, salt tongues, Dutch cheeses in large quantities, cases of preserved European fruits, cases of cordials, baskets of aniseed, ankers of French vinegar, variety of French wines in casks, and bottled in cases, strong beer in casks and bottled in cases, quintals of wax candles and flambeaux for the churches, quintals of tallow candles, quintals of biscuit, quintals of eating and burning oils, quintals of soap, cases of pickles, cases of mustard, cases of olives, boxes of medicines, gunpowder, small shot and lead balls, perfumes, scents, &c. in boxes.

Value exported from France to Santo Domingo in the year 1789, 4,125,610 pounds English money.

In the year 1789 an extensive trade was carried on between French St. Domingo, and the Spanish settlements on the continent of America and in the Spanish Islands; in which year, 283 Spanish vessels of all descriptions arrived there, from the city of Santo Domingo, Carthagena, Puerto Bello, Puerto Cavallo, Honduras, Truxillo, Rio de la Hache, Venezuela, La Vera Cruz, New Orleans, the Floridas, island of Puerto Rico, La Havana, Puerto del Principe, Spiritu Santo, and the other parts of Cuba; which brought with them in dollars and various products, to the value 2,450,115 pounds English money, with which they purchased European goods, Negro slaves, &c. These they carried to the said Spanish settlements, and islands, into which the greatest part of them were smuggled.

In the year 1789, there sailed from France to the coast of Africa 119 large ships, which imported into

the ports of Port au Prince, St. Marc, Leogone, Jeremie, Les Cayes, and Cape François in the island of St. Domingo.

17,674—Men.

8,146—Women.

6,529—Boys.

2,916—Girls.

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35,265—Negro Slaves imported in 1789.

By which the French African merchants gained upwards of one million pounds English money; besides the said one million in profits, this African trade gave employment to 119 ships, navigated by 4125 mariners, caused large sales of French manufactures, various French products, East India goods, &c. which were sent out from France to Africa, to pay for the purchase of these Negroes, and said ships so employed in the African trade, returned to France laden with the products of St. Domingo, and Spanish America; by which their respective owners gained still more considerable profits.

A smuggling trade was carried on between the French and Spanish ports of St. Domingo; which, notwithstanding the hereditary and irreconcilable enmity, always subsisting between the two colonies; was actually productive of much good even to the Spaniards; for the supplies of horned cattle, horses, mules, &c. were procured with much labour: and in return the French supplied them with the various manufactures and products of Europe, as well as slaves on much more moderate terms than they could possibly procure them by any other means.

The annual amount of this smuggled trade was but small, as the Spaniards had not any export trade

to answer these commodities, and required only sufficient in quantity, for the consumption of the inhabitants of all colours, resident in their part of Santo Domingo. It consisted annually of

	<i>Dollars.</i>
25,000 horned cattle valued there at 35 dollars per head	875,000
2000 mules and horses at 35 dollars per head	70,000
Cash	500,000
Amount sent to procure goods, negroes, and farming utensils	1,445,000

In general also, a very extensive trade was carried on by the United States of America to the French ports in St. Domingo. In the year 1789, six hundred and eighty-four United States built vessels (burden on the average seventy tons) entered the different French ports in St. Domingo. Their cargoes, brought from the United States, consisted of barrels of flour, salted provisions of all kinds, as beef, pork, butter, &c. salted herrings, and other salt fish in great quantities, East India goods, English manufactured goods, live stock of various kinds, and lumber.

Said vessels carried back in payment to the United States, cotton, wool, indigo, cochineal, coffee, sugars, rum, molasses, ginger, black pepper, cordials, gums of various kinds, sweetmeats, segars in great quantities, nicaragua wood, logwood, fustic, lignum vitæ, ebony, mahogany of all sizes in great quantities.

The returns of trade amounted to between eight and nine hundred thousand pounds English per annum.

## (D)

*Memoirs of the Prince of Peace, late Generalissimo of the Spanish Armies.*

DON Manuel Godoy was born at Badajos about the year 1766, of parents, whose necessities were often relieved by the usual donation of soup, &c. at the convents, and who were occasionally employed in secreting smuggled goods during the night. Many of the respectable inhabitants of the city are still living witnesses of the miserable situation of the Godoy family. Their connection with smugglers\*, however, encreasing as the family acquired strength, it was doubtless that idea that first induced the two eldest brothers, Luis and Manuel, to become soldiers in the king's life guards, where smuggling is carried on in the most open manner. Luis set out for Madrid and entered as a private in the life guards, where he had not done duty long before his portly figure caught the attention of the then princess of Asturias, who enjoyed the honours of queen. She began in her usual manner of sending him rich presents, such as a snuff box of tortoise shell, with her portrait set round in gold, which was worth an ounce of Spanish gold, or 3l. 19s. sterling; sometimes articles of much greater value, and sometimes a purse full of ounces of gold. At length she ventured to procure him a pair of colours, and Luis appeared a complete officer. During this time Manuel arrived; and his brother's success enabled him to keep him as a cadet rather than to enter as a

\* Badajos has existed many years by smuggling only, there being no legal commerce pursued that can be avoided.



private soldier, hoping that he should soon be able to procure him a preferment. In the mean time the jealous eye of Charles III. regretting his error in forcing his son to marry, became every day more alert to the gross imprudencies of his daughter in law; and he beheld her attachment to this new made officer with the most poignant indignation, and sent him immediately into exile, prohibiting his ever coming within twenty-five leagues of Madrid, giving him however the command of a company in the militia of Extremadura, and also of an old fortress in that province. He was also promised the cross of the military order of Alcantara, but Charles's passion was too violent to wait that ceremony, and he was dismissed with the nominal title of this order. This was the period when the family began to think seriously of nobility; and it was then that they found the noble appendage of de Alvarez. Whether the Godoys were originally of the Alvarez family, and had acquired a title to that seignory, which the vulgar pronunciation of the Extremadurians had originally contracted, and in fine omitted, is a question I have not found any Spanish antiquary disposed to resolve. It now rests on the ipse dixit of the prince, and there exists no negative evidence. The exile of Luis was effected; and the queen (the princess of Asturias) with all the facility of a lady of easy virtue, forgot her lover in pursuit of other gallants. It has been said, but erroneously, that her majesty kept sending him presents in his exile, by the hands of Manuel, who was introduced to her by the duchess of Alva, under pretext of playing on the guitar; the latter circumstance is too ridiculous to require confutation; but the contrary is the fact, nor does it appear that the queen ever saw Manuel till

the death of Charles III. Indeed she was too much occupied, as she generally was, in meeting with gallants whom she could enjoy, without spending in fruitless efforts, the time necessary to her other amusements. During the long banishment\* of Luis, Manuel procured an appointment in the guards, and also had married an amiable young woman, by whom he had four or five children. At length the death of Charles III. gave existence to the era of our hero's glory. On this event, Luis hoping to be recalled from exile, determined on addressing a loving memorial to her majesty, recalling to her memory, the numerous tender pledges of his attachment, and his eagerness again to approach her person. The difficulty of presenting this memorial to the hands of the queen herself, was the only obstacle; and for this Manuel was deemed the properest person. This he performed *con acierto*†. Her majesty received the memorial most graciously, but was more struck with the young, bold and brawny figure that presented it, than with the plaintive tale of an enamorado, long since enjoyed. The queen, after appointing a convenient hour to take the matter into consideration, and to converse with himself, dis-

\* The precipitation and rigour of banishment from the court of Madrid, often presented an example of merciless cruelty and tyranny; the *desterrados* are gone in an hour, no one recognizes their former friends or connections, lest they should be involved in a similar fate. Nor does any one dare either to write or receive a letter. Thus a character, as popular in Madrid as some speakers in the House of Commons in London, have been precipitated in a day into an oblivion as entire, as if dead forty years. These were the blessings of an absolute monarch.

† We have no word in English so emphatic as the above to express with effect.

missed Manuel with a present which at once indicated her private feelings, and personal attachment. From this period, fortune seems to have borne him on her wings to the temple of honour, as his advancement was as rapid, as the favours of that fickle goddess. Luis's exile was terminated, and he received a colonel's commission in the guards, but a new office was created for Manuel, adjutant-general in the life guards, with the rank of major-general in the army. He had not held these situations long, till he had succeeded, through the consummate address of the queen, in ingratiating himself with the king, and was shortly after made lieutenant-general in the army, and called upon to be one of his majesty ministers, in the capacity of first secretary of state. It was at this period, that he acquired a complete ascendancy over the king's mind, by doing every thing as he thought proper, without enquiring for the king's approbation. This was so flattering to the king's natural indolence, in political affairs, that he resolved never after to have another minister; and that he should govern and direct the helm of the state, as might be agreeable to his own views. His majesty felt grateful to the man who had thus relieved him from the burden of government, and he continued pouring honours and wealth on his head. It was now that Manuel was to be ennobled, and it must be confessed, that he evinced address, in claiming nobility from his ancestors, rather than from his personal merit. Don Manuel Godoy de Alvarez was created a grandee of Spain of the first class, under the title of duke of Alcadia; the king bestowing on him the royal domain of Alcadia, and also the revenues of four of the most wealthy military orders, which must be rather above

han below 100,000l. sterling a year. The now duke of Alcadia found his power unlimited; his most distant relatives were all placed in the most lucrative offices; the most trifling favours of the court were not to be obtained without his permission; and the ancient grandees of Spain paid their court to him, and attended his levees, with equal assiduity as those of the king. The queen's liberality to him, at least in her personal favours, was unremitting; and their amours now became so common, so public, and so much in defiance of all decency or decorum, that I should be sorry to abuse the language in a description of their wanton excesses. The period of the war with France arrived, in which the duke of Alcadia evinced more power than political sagacity. The grand council of Castile was summoned, which was then a spirited, liberal, and independent body. This council, with the brave count de Aranda at its head, decided in favour of *defensive* measures, contrary to those of the duke. Their timidity and prudence greatly incensed the duke of Alcadia, who, determined on *offensive* measures and on plunder, dissolved the council with great indignation, and banished the worthy count de Aranda to Sarragoza, where he survived just long enough, to witness the disgrace and downfall of his country.—Thus was the most noble and the most ancient council in Europe annihilated by the puerile frenzy of a mushroom duke; a council instituted by Alonzo XI. and the conquerors of the Moors in the end of the 10th or the beginning of the 11th century; a council too, from whose bosom sprung some of the wisest and most salutary laws, conceived in a genuine spirit of humanity, justice, and I would say liberty, were the word intelligible. This ancient council, which pointedly admonished the emperor

Charles V. and which repeatedly checked the sanguinary ambition of the Philips, is now no more. True, another under the same name has been called into existence, but it serves only to emblazon the shield of the Prince of Peace, and not to protect the rights and immunities of the nation. The war with France commenced, and during the time that the Spanish soldiers continued advancing into the French territories, they behaved with uncommon bravery, often fighting and conquering with two to three. The discordancy of the cabinet councils occasioned them to receive orders to retire immediately into the Spanish territory, and to act for the future on the *defensive* only. This order struck a panic through the whole army; and they conceived themselves insulted and betrayed, and never after fought either with inclination or courage. The frontier towns fell before the French almost on their approach; and there remained no alternative to the Spaniards to save the country, but by making peace. This the short-sighted duke thought could not be bought too dear under the existing circumstances, and consequently made a treaty, the folly of which posterity will lament. By this treaty the Spanish territory was curtailed; St. Domingo and Louisiana were delivered up to France; and an article was concluded, by which Spain was to furnish France with a certain number of ships of the line, well equipped, whenever the latter power should be at war; and also to pay, support, and clothe, 45,000 French soldiers to protect Spain, whether in war or peace. For this treaty the besotted Charles IV. made our hero *principe de la Paz*, *capitan general de los Exercitos Espannoles por Tierra y por Mar*; giving him at the same time new domains, and the revenues of several ruined monasteries. Hitherto

the impropriety of the prince's conduct seems the natural consequence of his ignorance; but as his power and titles increased, his character appears marked with traits of treachery, cruelty, and tyranny, which can never be erased.—I allude to his treatment of don Gaspar Melchior de Jovellans\*; a man of taste and genius, a philosopher, statesman and agriculturist, not inferior to any other in Europe. He originally courted, admired, and became the assumed friend of this philosopher, and afterwards, without any other cause than his superior talents, which were uniformly directed by wisdom and penetration to the renovation of his unhappy country, became his most cruel and inveterate enemy, condemning him causelessly to a miserable prison in Mallorca, where he was precipitated from the first secretariship of state, denied all communication with his friends, and even with his wife. The cruel and unjust sufferings of this most worthy man will for ever stain the character of our hero with infamy and detestation.—His conduct to two other respectable characters, but of less notoriety, was equally criminal and ferocious, falsely accusing them of partiality to the English.

About this period, his whimsical marriage with one of the princesses royal took place. His power now being absolute, and quite independent of the queen,

\* This great statesman and Spanish patriot is not unknown to those who are familiar with Spanish affairs, and his *Ley Agraria* would enrich any language. This work, and his general free and liberal sentiments, occasioned his exile, which lasted till the present change of things, and as an aggravation to his privation of liberty, he was interdicted the use of pen, paper and books, and obliged to spend his time in teaching children their catechism, a task forcibly imposed upon him.

his contempt for her increased daily; which she perceiving, and never being able to discover whether he was married, proposed to her *Manuelito* (a diminutive of great tenderness in Spanish), in the public levee, to marry one of the princesses, then present, to whom she pointed. The prince answered, 'that he was always ready to receive the favours of her majesty;' and the then archbishop of Toledo (an Italian) being present, the nuptials were celebrated immediately. This was the completion of his power.

At the re-establishment of the pope, he obliged the bishops of Spain, who had enjoyed the authority of popes in their respective districts, during the interregnum, to render their obeisance to the new pope, who in return constituted him 'protector of the whole catholic faith;' and the archbishop of Toledo, who celebrated his nuptials, was translated to Rome, with a cardinal's hat. The present archbishop of Toledo and primate of Spain, Louis de Bourbon, is hence his matrimonial uncle. On the declaration of the unprovoked and unjust war against Portugal, our hero placed himself at the head of the soldiers, as generalissimo of the army; but his principal and only achievement was breaking up some convents of women, and dispersing the nuns throughout the country, a conduct not very consistent with a protector of the catholic faith.

Whilst we view his political character, we behold it tissue with errors, crimes, and occasionally, traits of benevolence; but from his private character we shrink with horror and disgust, at his endless and unlimited debaucheries, unparalleled in any christian age or country. By amour he acquired his powers and honours, and by amour he was determined to hold



them. Fathers, mothers, husbands, brothers, would cheerfully conduct their daughters, wives, or sisters, if somewhat handsome, to the attention of the prince, in order to procure places and pensions from government. A handsome woman, of address, indeed, seldom failed to procure either her father, husband, or brother, or other relative, a place : but at what a price !!! It was common to see six or seven of these hapless victims in his saloon every morning, with whom in proportion to their beauty or charms, he regaled himself in succession. This is a melancholy picture, but is not the less just. It is, however, a lamentable proof of the danger of satire ; and had Cervantes never written his inimitable *Don Quixotte*, a queen would never have dared to dispatch her emissaries to search for gallants, much less a prince have dared to establish a seraglio in the capital of Spain ; nor could *cabronazos*,\* have had any other existence than in words. *Quixotte* is an innocent and amusing work to an English reader, but has proved fatal to the Spaniards. Happy would it be for Spain had she still knights-errant in lieu of *cabronazos* ; her chief towns would not then be desolated by pestilence and famine, nor her degenerate sons sunk into debility and premature old age. Notwithstanding, among those of education, there is still modesty in the men, and chastity in the women.

The queen, who, whether, as it is said, she be subject to any infirmities of nature, or actuated by an abandoned principle, the natural consequence of an

\* I do not believe that either our language or morals would be benefited by a translation of this word : yet as curiosity may be more dangerous than truth, it means 'men who sell their wives' favours.'

Italian education, must be classed with Messalina, has greatly injured Spain. Her private memoirs have been published, and are said to be authentic by those who ought to know; but as it is a work, if possible, more scandalous than that of Cleland, oblivion is its only desert. To account for the contempt and ill-usage of the prince to her, it has been supposed that she had, in some unguarded moment of pleasure, proposed to him the death of the king, or some such desperate expedient; otherwise, it is thought he never would have dared to treat her in the manner he did. The king, simple man, knew nothing, nor minded any thing but fowling, to which he was extremely attached, and is an excellent marksman. The queen was devoted to searching for gallants; Godoy conducted the government, and created new nobles as he thought fit. He is not really an enemy to learning, as he has been accused; but his schemes to protect it have been badly conceived, and proved equally fatal to the progress of knowledge. An instance appears in the absurd privilege given to the late don Joseph Cavanilles, whose pupils alone were permitted to fill the professors' chairs in the different universities and public schools: all others, even those of superior information, not disciples of Cavanilles, were prohibited being professors of botany. Cavanilles resided a long time in Paris, where he acquired more cunning and intrigue than philosophy; and his great labours consisted in reducing (improperly) the classes of Linnaeus to fifteen. Such have been the left-handed efforts of the Prince of Peace to protect learning, and encourage the arts and sciences. His manners are strongly marked with provincialism; at first violent and impetuous; then cool, repentant, and meditative, and,

in fine, passive, yielding, and friendly.—He is a very able-bodied man, at present very corpulent: of a figure more agreeable from its strength than beauty; of the deportment of a man of business rather than that of a courtier or philosopher; and of a mien more strong than noble. He is not destitute of talents, yet he rarely shews that depth of perspicuity or shrewdness, which uneducated men of strong minds generally evince. His levees, were regularly and numerously attended by the first nobility of Spain; and he was not wanting in attention to the fair part of his visitants. He was hated and feared by the ancient grandees, whose privileges he greatly curtailed. In short, his pride and his debaucheries, ruined and disgraced his country, and cannot be held in too great detestation. His annual income has been estimated at upwards of 250,000*l.* sterling, but was probably much more.

It would be endless to enumerate the baneful effects of this man's administration in Spain, but to give a fuller idea of the influence and supreme authority he acquired, we add the following translation of a public order, which contains the titles successively conferred upon him.

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

This afternoon being the 30th of August, a grand public walk and procession is hereby proclaimed, to celebrate the joy of this Royal Board of Trade of Madrid, which procession is to be accompanied with fire works in the evening prepared for that effect, in commemoration of the happy elevation of his most Serene Highness the Prince of Peace, to the dignity of Great Admiral of Spain, and the Indies, and Pro-

rector of maritime trade in all the dominions of his majesty.

It is ordered that all the public walk, including the field of Mars, and the quarter of the town called Salud, be handsomely adorned, and bands of music placed at appropriate distances. Round the statue of our august King and Lord, Charles the Third, (to whose soul God grant rest) there shall be placed one company of cavalry on guard, and another round the royal portrait of our august King and Lord, Charles the Fourth, (whom God preserve :) this portrait with that of his Most Serene Highness the Prince of Peace, Generalissimo, and High Admiral, shall be placed in state at the end of the public walk near the Castle la Punta. The frame in which are represented these two portraits, being the same that was placed in the theatre on the evening of the 23rd instant.

It shall be displayed with all suitable elegance, and adorned with the different merchant flags, with the names of the principal sea-ports, and the royal standard, to signify the protection which trade will receive from his Most Serene Highness, and the beneficence of his Majesty in this new elevation, which will be followed by the greatest increase and opulence in commerce, on being thus protected, in addition to the royal marine forces. In the public walk will be presented two vessels manned with youths, chosen from the trade of the town, dressed in sailor's cloathing, handsomely and richly adorned, manifesting their joy at the re-establishment of the admiralty, and election of the High Admiral, and great protector of trade, in the person of his Most Serene Highness, Prince and Generalissimo, which promise the happy results we may expect.

## TITLES OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Our Most Serene Lord Don Manuel de Godoy, Alvarez de Faria, Rios, Sanchez Zaragoza, Prince of Peace, Count of Ebramonte, Lord of the Forests of Rome and Aldobea, and the States of the country of Albalat, La Sirena, Lagos de la Albufera de Valencia, and the towns of Huetor de Santillana, Veas and Lueca, Perpetual Mayor of the cities of Madrid, Nava del Rey, and Reus, of the cities of Santiago, Cadiz, Malaga, Exija, Burgos, Segovia, Valencia, Murcia, Ronda, Mauresa, Guadalaxara, Gerona, Barcelona, Peñíscola, St. Lucar de Barrameda, Teruel, Lerida, Toledo, Assumption in Paraguay, Buenos Ayres and Mexico, Dignitary of the towns of Xerez de la Frontera, and Seville, Elder Brother and Perpetual Alcalde of the tribunal of the Holy and Royal Brotherhood of the city of Toledo, with representation, vote, and presidency in all their functions, Deputy Director and President of the college of Nobles in Madrid, and of the Treasury for the support of Officers' Widows, Grandee of Spain of the first class, Knight of the distinguished order of the Golden Fleece, and of the Great Cross of the royal and distinguished order of Charles the Third, and of St. John, Knight of the Great Cross of the royal order of Christ, of Saint Gonaro and Saint Fernando, of the most distinguished *rank in the Legion d' Honneur*, Comendador of Valencia, del Vensoto, Rivera, and Seneschal in the military order of Santiago, Counsellor and Senior of the State, Gentleman of the Bed-chamber, Generalissimo of the royal armies by land, High Admiral of the royal maritime forces of Spain and the Indies, and Protector of the maritime trade of all the dominions of his Royal Majesty.

Printed by superior orders.

Who could ever imagine that so many titles and dignities ever belonged to one man, but less to a plebeian by birth, originally a stripling unknown, but who rose to be a man of the first consequence in a kingdom of nobles, by his address, cunning and person, for he had not an accomplishment beyond droning out love songs to the sound of a guitar, which he first learnt in the guard house.

(E)

*Copy of a dispatch from Major-General Carmichael to Viscount Castlereagh, dated Saint Carlos, before the city of St. Domingo, 8th July, 1809.*

*Saint Carlos, before the city of St. Domingo,  
July 8, 1809.*

MY LORD,

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that I sailed from Jamaica, on the 7th ultimo, with the troops as per margin, and landed at Pa-leuque, the nearest landing place, thirty miles distant from the city of St. Domingo, on the 28th instant, when I immediately proceeded to reconnoitre the forts and fortifications, which was completely effected on the 29th, and fully satisfied me that the walls and bastions were assailable by a coup-de-main, and, considering the garrison who had bravely defended them for a constant siege of eight months, it appeared to me that prompt and decisive measures were most prudent before a gallant enemy, and would obviate the evil effect of open trenches in the rainy season, the only foe to be dreaded by this corps, and which had already made a severe impression on the Spanish natives of the country, 400 out of 600 being rendered unfit for service, and would probably be attended with more mortality to the British troops, than a conflict upon the walls.

His Excellency General Sanchez, from whom I met, on the 30th ultimo, the most kind and cordial reception, being very sick some time before, and, I am grieved to say, still continues so by fatigue and liver disease, ordered the Spanish troops at the dif-



ferent posts to execute any directions given by me, which they cheerfully performed by a forward movement, immediately and effectually cutting off the communication between the city of St. Domingo and the strong fortress of Fort Jerome, which, by covering the only landing place, prevented our communicating with the squadron.

Having the same evening refused the French general's application for an armistice, as by inclosures 1, 2, & 3, I advanced with a detachment of Spaniards to the church of St. Carlos, and established my quarters there within musket-shot of the city, confident that the British troops would be with us that night, which, however, was rendered impracticable by heavy and incessant rain, until the following night of the 1st, after suffering the greatest fatigue and privations, dragging the field-pieces on bad roads, and dreadful weather, and passages of rivers without proper conveyance.

The 1st of July I received another letter from General Barquier, No. 4, answered by No. 5, allowing him until twelve the next day for an answer.

In consequence of a continual fire of musketry from the walls whilst the white flag was up, I moved forward with a party of dragoons, and sent an aid-de-camp to demand the cause, who was very politely received, and assured by General Barquier, that the inhabitants were firing at immense numbers of wild pigeons flying over the walls; but that he would give strict orders for it to cease during the suspension of hostilities. On the 2nd instant I received a letter, No. 6, from General Barquier, respecting the movement of the troops to St. Carlos, which had been occupied on the 30th ultimo, when his overture for

negotiation was rejected; answered by No. 7. On the 3rd, the commissioners for the capitulation met; those on the part of the French having declared that their instructions were positively not to consent to surrender, which I also understood by prisoners and intercepted letters, and, as I did not conceive myself justifiable in admitting any other terms, the meeting adjourned until a communication could be had with the commander of the naval forces.

In consequence of bad weather, the answer was not received until the 6th instant, which perfectly coincided with my opinion, as to the only terms that could be granted to the enemy. I was also informed that the river Haina had overflowed its banks, and we were thus separated from the greater part of the ordnance stores and our provisions, which further determined me to bring the matter to immediate issue, as I stated to Captain Cumby, and requested that cooperation in armed seamen, ammunition, and provisions, which I found him ever ready most cordially to afford.

With humble submission to the Almighty Disposer of events, full confidence in a just cause, and British hearts to maintain it, I wrote the letter, No. 8, to be delivered to General Barquier on the French garrison, again refusing to lay down their arms, and immediately made the following disposition.

The first brigade, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Horsford, who preferred that command to the duty of Deputy Adjutant General.

The second brigade, under Major Curry of the 54th regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Smith of the 55th regiment, a valuable officer, not having joined, by

the Diego transport, in which he was embarked, being a bad sailer, and whose absence I should have greatly regretted, as well as the excellent officers and men with him, had the expected engagement taken place. On firing the first gun from the enemy, the reserve to be formed of the Royal Irish and 54th grenadiers, fifty men of the second West India regiment, and the same number of the Porto Rico regiment, as this body had sufficient cover, as long as the walls of the church and my quarters remained, upon which, above twenty guns and one mortar bore at the distance of three hundred and eighty-eight yards. I directed Brigadier General French, a most active and zealous officer, to take up a position at a hollow, about one hundred and fifty paces distant, in my rear, and should the garrison attempt a sortie upon the reserve, to wait their close approach, charge bayonets and follow them into the city. Had the enemy remained within the gates, false attacks and feints, at different points, were to be made during the night, and scaling-ladders being prepared, a general assault was to take place in open day, the first favourable opportunity, a lodgement to be effected upon the bastions; but the troops not to enter the streets until further orders.

During this hour of suspense under arms, the only sensation perceptible, was impatience for attack, and the countenance of every British soldier, at that interesting period, depicted a resolute determination to plant the glory of England, with the points of their bayonets, upon the fortified walls of St. Domingo. The hour having expired, I sent my military secretary, Captain Twigg, to know the reason the white flag was continued after the time had elapsed,

and not any answer returned to my letter? He met at the gate Lieutenant Colonel Myers, announcing that the ultimatum had been agreed upon, and the garrison consented to lay down their arms as prisoners of war.

I also detached Major Walker of the Royal Irish, with three light companies of the Royal Irish, 54th and 55th regiments of foot, to Fort Jerome, a very strong fortress about two miles west of the city, with orders, on the commencement of the action, to force the gate with a field-piece, and storm by the sally-port, the walls being too high for escalade. Upon his summons, Captain Gillerman, who had no provisions but biscuit left, gave the answer of a brave soldier, that he would abide the fate of the city.

The honour of his Majesty's arms, my lord, has been maintained, without the loss of one British soldier, by shot or sickness, or having recourse to that glorious, but, at the same time, deplorable resource, the assault of a populous city. When it is considered the courage and persevering fortitude of the French garrison, with their superiority of position and numbers, I trust his Majesty will not disapprove of the measures taken for the reduction, the magnitude of the object obtained, and the terms granted to the enemy, and which will be delivered to your lordship by my military secretary, Captain Twigg, of the 54th regiment, to whom I beg leave to refer for further information, and earnestly recommend him as an officer deserving such mark of favour, as his Majesty may be graciously pleased to confer.

I have, my lord, now a further most gratifying duty to perform, that of making known to his Majesty

the most zealous and indefatigable exertions of the following officers:—Brigadier General French, second in command; Lieutenant Colonel Horsford, commanding the first brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Smith, commanding the Royal Artillery, whose abilities and unwearied attention surmounted uncommon difficulties; Lieutenant Colonel Myers, Deputy-quarter-master-general, and commissioner to arrange the articles of capitulation.

“The prominent situation of those officers afforded me a constant experience of their zeal, abilities, and, anxiety for the most honourable termination of the enterprise; and which sentiments, I can assure your lordship, actuated every officer, non-commissioned officer, and soldier, upon the expedition.

It would be ingratitude in me, my Lord, were I to omit stating in the strongest possible terms, the the cordial co-operation, as I have already noticed, and efficient aid, the army received from Captain Cumby, commanding his Majesty's squadron before the city, who also landed two officers, Lieutenants Denman and Sheriff, with a detachment of seamen, who were of infinite service, and cheerfully underwent the most severe fatigue and labour.

It is impossible for me to pass over in silence, the great assistance I received from William Walton, jun. Esq. an English gentleman who formerly resided in the island, and whose acquaintance with the country, inhabitants, and languages, rendered his voluntary and able services of the most essential

benefit, as private Secretary to me during the expedition.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. CARMICHAEL, Major-General,  
commanding His Britannic Majesty's  
Forces at the City of St. Domingo.

Then follows the correspondence referred to between Major-General Carmichael and the French Commandant, which at length terminated in a capitulation, by which the garrison were to be sent to France, not to serve till regularly exchanged. They were to be sent first to Jamaica, from whence conveyances were to be provided to take them to their destination.

*Capture of Samana.*

His Majesty's brigs Reindeer and Pert arrived in Port Royal, bring us the tidings of the capture of Samana, the famous rendezvous for a horde of privateers, by his Majesty's frigates Franchise, Aurora, Dædalus, and Reindeer and Pert brigs. On the 10th instant these vessels anchored off the town, when the alarm was soon spread, and at the sight of such a superior force, the principal part of the inhabitants of the town, consisting of upwards of 900 French, men, women and children, sought refuge on board the Exchange privateer of 14 guns, and 100 men, and another privateer lying in the harbour, expecting they would be able to effect their escape to St. Domingo with the assistance of their sweeps. The men of war perceiving their intention, immediately dispatched four boats well manned, in pursuit of them,

which soon came up with and captured them. In the mean time, several other boats proceeded to storm the fort, which was accomplished after a slight resistance. We regret, however, to add, that Captain Duer of the Aurora, was dangerously wounded in the head by a musket-ball, while landing the party. Four vessels lying in the harbour, laden with coffee, &c. also fell into the hands of the captors. A vessel was shortly after dispatched to Puerto Rico with the intelligence ; and requesting a sufficient number of troops to be sent from thence, to garrison the place, which was transferred to the Spaniards.

*(Original of Proclamation found in page 208.)*

“ L. Barquier General de Brigada ; Comandte. en Xefe, y Administrador-general, haciendo funciones de Capn. General. Alos vecinos antiguamente Españoles de la parte del Este de la Isla de Sto. Domingo.

“ Vecinos de la parte del Este de Sto. Domingo. Hace seis meçes que haveis levantado contra el Gobierno Frances el estandarte de la rebellion ; hace seis meces que desgarrais el seno de vuestra patria. ¿ Qual era pues vuestra esperanza en vuestra culpable empresa ! ¿ y que haveis ganado en esta guerra tan impia como insensata ?—Vuestros campos estan azolados ; vuestros hatos despoblados ; y vosotros haveis forzado aquellos que fueron vuestros amigos à llevar entre vosotros la muerte y la desolacion. ¡ Ingratos ! ¿ Que os faltaba ? ¿ Baxo qual autoridad mas paterna y amorosa queriais vivir ! Yo se que haveis sido seducidos, que haveis sido cruelmente engañados ; ¿ Pero como aun vuestros ojos no están toda-



via abiertos ? ; Por ventura, sacrificariais à la criminal ambicion de vuestros Gefes, y a los perfidos consejos de vuestros enemigos eternos, vuestra tranquilidad, vuestras propiedades, la existencia de vuestras Esposas y de vuestros hijos, y en fin quanto compone la felicidad del hombre de bien en la tierra, y sus esperanzas en la otra vida ?—Quando vuestros Gefes han precipitado el destino de este Pais en la tempestuosa mar de las revoluciones, ellos no ignoraban el horroroso venidero que os preparaban, y al qual os entregaban ; pero en su delirio han andado cigamente azia un punto que no alcanzaràn famas, por que yo, y mis valerosos soldados, nos hemos puesto entre ellos, y esse punto.

Insensatos ? todos vosotros haveis desesperado de la clemencia del gobierno ; vosotros no haveis podido creer en mis palabras de paz porque despues de haver sido traidores con vuestros bien-hechores, y perjuros à vuestros juramentos, os haveis hecho desconfiados ; pero desengañaos : todavia aun es tiempo ; y yo lo repito, porque me hallo demasiado fuerte para no temeros ; regresad à vuestras casas ; sed pacificos ; bolbed à vuestras tareas y faenas domesticas, y borra con una sumicion pronta quanto mal haveis causado. Dios no quiere la muerte del pecador : el encomienda el olvido de las injurias, siendo su ley divina, el norte de mis acciones. Como Cristiano, y como representante del Emperador de los Franceses, yo os consedo un indulto general y entero. Vuestras propiedades seràn respectadas ; sereis protegidos, y tratados como los antiguos Franceses ; pero daos priesa à aprovechar mis generosas ofertas ; porque de aqui à poco, quiza ya no estarà en mi poder el hacer cosa al-

guna por vosotros. Bultos pues à vuestro deber, algun dia bendicireis mi clemencia, è incluireis mi nombre en las acciones de gracia que dareis al omnipotente, quien sin duda quiere salvar este país, quiere que todavia sea dichoso, y que yo sea el el instrumento de su bondad.

Quartel general de Sto. Domingo,

21 de Abril de 1809.

(firmado) BARQUIER.

(F)

*Selection of a Cargo suited, on a general Scale, for the  
Spanish Settlements in America, being the Description  
of Goods, Proportions, &c. intended to assist the  
British Trader in his Assortments.*

*Superfine Woollen Broad Cloths.*

100 Pieces Cloth, to be packed in Ten Bales, viz.

- 
- 4 Pieces Mazarine Blue.
  - 1 Green.
  - 1 Black.
  - 1 Brown, dark colour.
  - 1 White, being regimental colour.
  - 1 Red.
  - 1 Purple.
- 

10 Pieces in each Bale.

---

*Kerseymeres, 150 Pieces, viz.*

- 4 Blue.
  - 2 White.
  - 2 Red.
  - 1 Bottle Green.
  - 1 Brown.
  - 1 Purple.
  - 4 Fancy Colours, say, Fawns, and Chocolates, &c.
- 

15 Pieces in each Bale.

*Ladies thin Woollen Cloths, 80 Pieces, viz.*

- 4 Blue.
- 2 White.
- 1 Red.
- 1 Black.
- 1 Purple.
- 1 Bottle Green.

---

10 Pieces in each Bale.

---

*Yorkshire Woollen Cloths, 80 Pieces.*

- 4 Blue.
- 2 Maroon.
- 1 Scarlet.
- 1 Purple.
- 1 White.
- 1 Bottle Green.

---

10 Pieces in each Bale.

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*Truco, or Billiard Cloths.*

10 Pieces Green, second quality, packed in two Bales.

---

*Blankets.*

6 Bales, cheap, different sizes assorted in each Bale,

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*Buntings, to make Spanish Flags.*

100 Pieces Yellow }  
 50 Red } in Bales 20 Pieces each.

*Hats.*

- 10 cases, to contain 40 round hats each, in all 400 hats—good quality—some silks,—quarter white, and green underneath—dark linings, or such as best hide perspiration—prices from 8s. to 22s.—a few hats, white and black, suited to friars, that is with a large brim, and small crown.
- 2 cases hats ornamented for officers in the stile of chapeaux bras, but large—none for women—bands and buckles must accompany each hat, and it must be dressed and preserved in shape to use on opening. No negro hats; this article being the greatest luxury the Spaniards have, they prefer them good.
- 

*Bed Ticks.*

- 4 Cases, and blue the prevailing colour.
- 

*Linens, Scotch and Irish.*

- All as white as possible, for the Spanish American requires the commodity to flatter and please the eye more than the touch or feel, but at the same time seeks it cheap, viz.
- 10 Bales Osnaburgs.  
 5 ditto Ticklenburgs.  
 6 Cases Platillas White.  
 2 ditto ditto Brown.  
 4 ditto Caserillos or White Rolls.  
 10 ditto Estopillas.  
 10 ditto Britannias.

4 Cases Ravensburgs.

2 ditto Sheeting, folded as Russia.

4 ditto Linens folded and marked as Creas a la  
Morlaix.

N. B. The more they imitate German goods the  
better, as to the latter a strong preference is given:

*Sail Cloth, 100 Pieces,*

1	No.	1
1	No.	2
2	No.	3
2	No.	4
2	No.	5
2	No.	6

10 Pieces in each Bale. Cheapest quality.

*Sail and Seive Twine.*

300 Pounds weight in three Bales.

*Irish White Linens, 200 Pieces.*

(Bounty on Exportation.)

4 Pieces at 12d. per yard.

4 ditto at 15d. ditto.

4 ditto at 18d. ditto.

4 ditto at 21d. ditto.

4 ditto at 2s. ditto.

20 Pieces in each Trunk.

N. B. Shewy, high glazed, and good colour.

*Checks, 250 Pieces, Linen and Cotton.*

- 100 Pieces linen checks three quarters, good blues and clear whites hot calendered, highly glazed, small stripe. A Bounty is had on exportation.
- 150 Ditto cotton checks folded as much as possible to imitate linen checks, and in the German style. No plaid patterns.

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250 Pieces packed 25 in each Bale.

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*Handkerchiefs, 400 Dozen.*

- 200 Dozen blue and white, blue ground, white cross bar, and to measure 35 to 40 inches square.
- 100 Dozen fancy red, purple, and white cross barred.
- 100 Dozen fancy colours.

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400 Dozen, 25 in each Bale.

N.B. These handkerchiefs being intended for poor people to wear on the head, must be cheap.

---

*Printed Calicoes, 1000 Pieces, 28 Yards each.*

- 600 Pieces low priced, say from 16d. to 22d. per yard, glaring colours and grounds, neat sprigs, more depends on the colours and shew, than on the fineness of the cloth; if they only consist of two colours let them be gaudy and lively.
- 200 Pieces from 20d. to 24d. Chintz furniture patterns, sprigged, shewy and tawdry.
- 200 Pieces ell wide from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per yard, length 21 yards, all most shewy possible, to imitate the prints done by Portales in Neufchatel, Switzerland, or East India Calicoes.

---

1000 Pieces packed in Trunks 25 Pieces each, one half divided into Pieces of 7 yards each, and folded in the book fashion.



*Glasgow White Muslins,*

Lappet, tamboured, and spotted, 500 Pieces, each to contain 10 Yards, thinnest grounds, thickly worked and sprigged, newest and most shewy patterns, but the cheapest rates.

50 Pieces also worked in gold, flowered, &c.

200 Ladies' dresses, bottoms worked in colours, gay, &c.

100 Dozen white muslin handkerchiefs.

100 Pieces book muslin, good quality.

100 Pieces for mosquito nets and curtains, clear and cheap.

*White Dutch Rope, 100 Pieces, viz.*

10 Pieces at 15d. per yard.

5 ditto at 18d. ditto.

5 ditto at 21d. ditto.

5 ditto at 2s. ditto,

25 Pieces in each Trunk.

*Ginghams, 300 Pieces, viz.*

10 Pieces at 14d. per yard.

5 ditto at 16d. ditto.

5 ditto at 18d. ditto.

5 ditto at 21d. ditto.

25 Pieces in each Trunk. Colours to be lively, light, shewy, such as pinks, roses, crimsons, yellows, &c.

*Lancashire White Muslinets,*  
(Variety of small Patterns)

60 Pieces packed in Trunks, 20 in each, but low priced.

---

*Jeannets, 40 Pieces.*

20 Pieces in each Trunk, dyed of lively colours.

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*White Shirting Calicoes, 200 Pieces.*

4 Pieces 12d. per yard.

4 ditto 15d. ditto.

4 ditto 18d. ditto.

4 ditto 21d. ditto.

4 ditto 2s. ditto.

---

20 Pieces in each Trunk.

---

*Cotton Estopillas.*

500 Pieces folded and packed to imitate German.

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*Small Cotton Platillas, 600 Pieces.*

Being cotton shirting cut into small pieces, seven yards each, and then folded and papered to imitate, in miniature, German platillas.

---

*Mock Madras Handkerchiefs, 400 Dozen.*

To imitate, as much as possible, the real lively colours, shewy, &c. 25 dozen in each Trunk.

*Table Cloths of Cotton.*

Two Trunks with table cloths, and napkins to match, with red and blue wide borders. The table cloths not largest sizes.

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*Pullicat and Romal Handkerchiefs, 200 Dozen.*

Shewy and gaudy, from 36s. to 50s. per dozen, each trunk to contain 25 pieces.

---

*Mantillas or Shawls for Veils.*

500 Sprigged worked, shewy and handsome, of muslin.

200 White laced veils, fashionable and large.

50 Black.

This article is made in Nottingham of cotton knot, worked broad borders, and variety of patterns.

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*Velverets,*

All Half Ell wide, none Half Yards, 100 Pieces.

2 Black.

4 Blue.

1 Yellow.

1 Purple.

1 Rose.

1 Sky Blue.

---

10 Pieces in each trunk from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per yard.

*Cordurois.*

All Half Ell wide, and ribbed, 100 Pieces.

4 Blue.

2 Black.

4 Fawns, and fancy colours.

10 Pieces in each Trunk.

---

*White Cotton Tapes.*

100l. value in an assortment, but broad sizes avoided.

---

*Blue Cottons, 400 Pieces.*

To imitate East India, well dyed, second and inferior cloths, and packed in bales 25 pieces in each.

This is a great wear of the Indians, and common people.

---

*White Cotton Thread.*

50l. value assorted, some in small boxes.

---

*White Flax Thread.*

50l. assorted.

---

*White Corded Dimities, 100 Pieces Yard wide.*

10 at 15d. per yard.

5 at 18d. ditto.

5 at 21d. ditto.

5 at 2s. ditto.

25 in each Trunk.

*Light Silks for Ladies' Dresses, 100 Pieces.*

8 Pieces full black, for ladies.

5 ditto ditto wear for clergymen, and strong.

2 ditto ditto Blue for ladies.

2 ditto ditto Rose.

2 ditto ditto White.

1 ditto ditto Crimson for parasols.

---

20 Pieces in each Trunk.

20 Pieces assorted, figured and spotted silks, strong  
for ladies shoes.

---

*Black and White Bombazeens.*

200 Pieces black for ladies church dresses, and secular  
clergy, good quality. The upper street petticoat  
of the ladies is of this article.

50 Pieces good whites intended for friars of the order  
of Mercenarians, &c.

---

250 Pieces packed in Trunks, 25 Pieces in each.

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*Sewing Silks.*

50l. value in common assortments.

---

*Silk Ribbons.*

4000 Pieces assorted, lively, gay, and shewy.

500 ditto hair ribbon.

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4500 Pieces,—also 1 case assorted velvet-ribbons and  
shoe binding.

*Silk Stockings.*

- 500 Pairs for men, new fashions, not high priced.  
 200 ditto for women, with clocks, &c.—and shewy.

*White Cotton Stockings, sandalled, &c.*

- 1000 Pairs open clocks, some others plain and assorted.

*Gloves.*

- 100 Dozen, low-priced, and shewy colours, some for military.

*Military Ornaments.*

- 200 Gold Epaulettes for officers.  
 200 Silver ditto.  
 100 Sword Knots, half gold, and half silver.  
 Small quantity silver and gold galoon, thread and spangles.  
 200 Military swords, and small dirks with sheaths and belts compleat.  
 200 Plumes various colours long and straight, such as the French use.

*Earthenware 60 Crates, viz.*

Some plain white, and some blue assorted.

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 20 Dozens flat plates.                               | } in each crate. |
| 5 Ditto soup ditto.                                  |                  |
| 4 Soup Tureens.                                      |                  |
| 2 Dozen chambers.                                    |                  |
| 2 Ditto jugs and mugs.                               |                  |
| And a small assortment of dishes<br>not large sizes. |                  |

*Earthenware Cups, Saucers, &c.*

200 Gill bowls.

100 Sets coffee cups and saucers largest sizes.

100 Ditto tea ditto that will serve for chocolate also,  
of largest sizes.

N.B. The seller allows five per cent for breakage,  
other articles than the above, are useless.

---

*Glass-Ware.*

30 Cases all pint tumblers cheap kind.

2 Ditto goblets better quality.

1 Case wines shewy, but not richly cut.

1 Ditto fruit dishes, &c. not richly worked.

1 Ditto decanters, shewy and cheap.

N.B. If the cargo is intended for Vera Cruz 40 boxes  
good window-glass may be added as used in  
Mexico, &c.

---

*Looking-Glasses.*

200l. Value laid out in looking-glasses for rooms,  
some good.

50l. In shaving common ditto assorted sizes.

---

*Hand-Whips.*

50 Dozen long hand-whips, not lashes.

100 Dozen plated spurs, leathers complete.



*Stationery.*

200l. in value in good writing and letter paper, and if it can be had, to imitate Barcelona, a paper for smoaking, some blank account and memorandum books, quills, sealing-wax, and wafers in tin boxes. Some English and Spanish grammars and dictionaries.

Two trunks Spanish playing cards.

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*Hammocks.*

400 Hammocks cotton, shewy and ornamented, such as the Indians use, and well imitated by Messrs. Phillips, of Manchester, packed in bales.

---

*Silk Umbrellas 300.*

10 Umbrellas large sizes crimson.

4 Ditto green.

2 Ditto sky blue.

2 Ditto yellow.

---

20 Umbrellas in each case.

---

*Silk Parasols for Ladies 300.*

10 Crimson, shewy, fringed, well plated.

2 Green.

4 Sky blue.

4 Assorted shewy colours.

---

20 in each case.

N.B. This article cannot be too stylish and well ornamented from being much used.

*Toys.*

6 Cases assorted, little images, dolls, &c.

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*Lead Shot.*

25 Kegs No. 3.

25 Ditto No. 4.

25 Ditto No. 5.

25 Ditto No. 6.

---

100 Kegs, but no other numbers.

---

*Gunpowder.*

50 Kegs good quality, and some glazed in tins for private shooting.

---

A small assortment of English fowling-pieces and pistols, more shewy and ornamented than highly finished.

---

*Tin Plates 100 Boxes.**Plated Candlesticks.*

20 Dozen assorted, shewy and such as in England are now considered old fashioned.

---

*Pewter Table Spoons.*

20 Gross pewter table spoons.

2 Ditto tea spoons

*Spying-Glasses.*

50 Good ones in cases each.

---

*Cloath's Brushes.*

12 Dozens assorted sizes.

4 Ditto Hair brushes.

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*Fishing Tackle.*

50l. in assorted fishing hooks.

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*Needles and Pins.*

50l. in good needles in tin boxes.

20l. in pins.

---

*Tin Canteens for Soldiers.*

50l. value, packed in tierces.

---

*East India Goods.*

4 Bales Nicanes blue colours.

2 Ditto blue Baftas.

4 Ditto white.

6 Ditto Nankeens, blue, white and yellow.

N.B. If these goods cannot be had cheap, they are better excluded, as they are cheaply supplied from the United States.

*Nails.*

- 10 Kegs of tacks.
- 50 Ditto half inch flat nails.
- 50 Ditto inch flat ditto.
- 50 Ditto inch and a half ditto.
- 50 Ditto two inches ditto.
- 10 Ditto three inches ditto.

For the credit of the English manufacturer, cast nails ought not to be sent. The Spaniards are accustomed to be supplied from Liege in Germany by way of France and Holland, and will purchase only the beaten ones.

---

*Sad Irons.*

- 500 Pairs packed in wrapper to avoid rust.
- 

*Iron Saucepans.*

- 50*l.* value, this article is not much in use, from the Spaniards cooking chiefly in earthen pipkins of their own manufacture which they call ollas.
- 

*Iron Pots.*

- 100*l.* in assorted sizes.
- 

*Chafing Dishes.*

- 20*l.* in chafing dishes to burn charcoal.

*Iron Hoes.*

200*l*. in Iron Hoes, without handles, for field work, not heavy, but with good eyes.

---

*Brass headed Tacks for Trunks, &c.*

50 Gross.

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*Manchetes, 6000.*

They are large long sword blades, nearly in the shape of the hangers used in common on board a ship, the Spaniards use them for cutting in the woods, cutting the sugar cane, and many other purposes. They have been accustomed to be supplied with this article from Germany, and the most esteemed, are those called del Perrillo, from having a small dog in a running posture stamped upon them, or a large half moon and stars, which are the marks of a particular manufacture, and give them additional value. The handle ought to be long and straight as a butcher's knife, with two pieces of ornamented horn riveted on each side, and like the handle of the Algerine atargan or sword.

---

*Butcher's Knives, 2000.*

All white bone, well riveted handles, and black sheath of leather. Low priced.

---

*Scissars,*

100 Dozens low priced, and only few high priced

*Boots.*

100 Pairs long and half boots, shewy, but not high;  
feet not too large nor thick soles.

---

*Razors, 100 Dozen.*

Principally low priced, some of a superior quality  
in cases, but a small proportion.

---

*Sailor's Knives, 200 Dozen.*

Large sizes, low priced, and, if they can be had,  
some of the long bladed knives, such as are  
used by the Spanish and French sailors.

200 Dozen assorted pocket knives, some with several  
blades and good quality.

100 Dozen pen knives assorted, of all prices.

---

*Table Knives.*

100 Dozen Table Knives, and three pronged forks,  
good quality.

100 Dozen Table Knives without forks.

10 Ditto silver eating forks.

5 Ditto dessert ditto.

---

*Combs for the Hair.*

100 Dozen small tooth combs, assorted.

*Buttons.*

500*l.* value in Birmingham buttons, shewy, viz. a few yellow and white plain, oval raised buttons, gilt and plated, some anchor buttons for the navy, and artillery buttons; others with the Spanish coat of arms in the centre, such as is found on the impression of a dollar, and round it the inscription, Viva Fernando Septimo.

---

*Snuff Boxes.*

200*l.* in value, metal and imitation snuff boxes, heads on them, portraits and fancy, if possible a likeness of Ferdinand, the motto above also round it; also some naval heroes, and the king of England.

A few fancy segar boxes would also sell, and all must have devices to please the eye.

---

*Copper Sheathing, and Copper Bolts.*

A quantity sufficient for six schooners.

---

*Sugar Plantations.*

Materials sufficient to erect works for ten plantations, but not so large as those used in Jamaica. Cuba is in great want of them.

---

*Files.*

100 Dozen assorted files, hand saw, triangular, &c.



*Copper Stills.*

Ten stills of various sizes, say complete.

2 of 60 gallons each.

2 of 70 ditto.

2 of 80 ditto.

2 of 90 ditto.

2 of 100 ditto.

---

10 Stills copper.

---

*Tools.*

200l. value in assorted joiners, ship and house carpenter's tools; coopers, smiths, &c.; also for watch makers, silversmiths, &c.

---

*Padlocks.*

2000 padlocks single, a few double, assorted.

---

*Crucibles.*

2 Tierces assorted crucibles for silversmiths.

---

*Oils.*

Oils suited for canvas painters, also almond oil is much used by the Spaniards, and comes in tin canisters, also essential oils and scents.

---

Cloves and cinnamon are good articles, if bought low, and not undersold from the United States.

Small assortment of leaf gold, copperas, alum, grindstones, coffee mills, buckles, &c., for sadlery, kegs of flints, &c.

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### *Musical Instruments.*

10 Piano fortes.

6 Large good organs for a room, lively tunes.

A few flutes, fifes, and violins, and Spanish guitars, harps, &c.

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### *Medicines.*

An assortment excluding those the country affords, and to consist of cream of tartar, rhubarb, senna, manna, glauber salts, cantharides, opium, nitre, ipecacuanha, calomel, mercury, precipitate, &c.; drugs must not be in their raw state, but ready for use, powdered, &c., as these operations are tedious in a hot country, and require apparatus.

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### *Jewelry.*

400*l.* value in ear rings, necklaces, bracelets, rings for fingers, broaches, crosses, sleeve buttons, breast buckles, bandeaus and ornaments for ladies heads, locketts, gold pins, &c., set with shewy stones, &c., chains, &c.; all must be of jeweller's gold, nothing of copper, as they judge of the article, when not manufactured by themselves, by the smell, and others would tarnish too much from the climate.

Some cheeses, pickles, porter, cyder, good vinegar, soap, fish-sauces, &c. would sell, but must be well packed.

Though the above is calculated on a large scale, it may be reduced to suit the convenience of the shipper, and consumption of the market to which the cargo is destined.

REMARKS.

TO make quick and profitable sales of goods in any part of the Spanish possessions in America, depends on the selection of the cargo destined for those markets. It is for want of these proper assortments, that so many enterprizing merchants and adventurers have been injured, as also from not proportioning the shipments to the consumption of the country. The real wants of the Spaniard are few, his prejudices many, he does not like innovation, and his luxuries are also confined. The Spanish taste varies from our own at home, the customs as well as the climate are different. It ought to be the object of the trader, to select such goods as will bear an equal proportionate advance and profit in all their parts.

All piece-goods in whatever kinds or description of package, ought to be accompanied with bale cards, in order to avoid opening the same, and ought to correspond perfectly. It will be adviseable also to sell by the package, as the shop-keepers would cull your goods and leave many of little or no value, or at least choose the most saleable.

All trunks, cases, and packages ought to be good, the trunks sell for their original value, and are more handy than cases, all fine goods ought to be packed in them. Each matted and well covered, marked in plain letters, and numbered in two places to avoid the trouble of lifting, and mistakes in shipping, landing, &c. and delivering to the purchaser.

It is to be observed that goods intended for the Spanish market, in their respective kinds, are required to be light, shewy, thin and low-priced, and on a different

principle of strength, and good wear to those which are intended for sale and consumption in Great Britain. They require the article to be dressy, not to last long; cheap and pretty, is their corresponding proverb.

#### REMARKS ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

100 English yards make 108 Spanish varas.

100 English ells make 140 Spanish varas.

97 Spanish pounds are equal to 100 English pounds.

The Spanish measure, called fanega, is equal to nearly three bushels or 150 pounds in weight.

Eight arrobas of wine make 25 gallons.

One arroba contains 25 Spanish pounds.

One Spanish vara contains 33 inches.

Flemish ells multiply by 80 and divide by 100 to make Spanish varas.

One Flemish ell contains 27 inches.

All piece goods measured, are sold by the Spanish vara.

One quintal contains 100 Spanish pounds.

Four arrobas make one quintal.

Spanish invoices are made out in reales de vellon, for example, two pieces blue cloth,  $40\frac{1}{2}$  varas à 80 rs. vn. = rs. vn. 3260. 0.

In drawing bills, a Spanish usance is sixty days.

Rials of plate are, however, more general in America, and eight form the value of a dollar, or 12½ cents.

*Commodities procured in the Spanish part of Santo Domingo, with which payments are made.*

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*Products of the said island of Santo Domingo.*

Logwood, — Fustic — Lignum Vitæ, — Mahogany, — Mahogany for Fineering, — Satin Wood, — Hides, — Cotton of five different qualities grown in the island, — Indigo, — Sugar, — Molasses, — Coffee, — Tortoise shell, — Aloes, — Black Pepper, — Ginger and Gum Guaiacum.

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*Brought from the Continent, &c.*

Gold both coined and uncoined, — Silver in Dollars, and uncoined, — Indigo from Guatemala, — Cochineal, — Yellow Bark, Quinquina, or Jesuits Bark, — Red Bark, — Nicaragua Wood, — Gums, Elemæ, Guaiacum, Copal, &c. — Cassia and China Root, — Sarsaparilla, — Cotton in Skins, — Tallow and Hides, — Goat Skins, — Copper, — Platina.

*Further particulars relating to the Idol or Cemi, described in page 167, Vol. I.*

THE European discoverers found amongst the natives of Hispañola, a species of religion, but it was difficult to define into a sect, or ascertain what was the leading object of their worship. Herrera tells us, that all the Caciques had each of them a house, at some distance from their towns, that contained some odd images made of stone or wood, and sometimes painted or stained, which they called *Cemis*, in whose worship different ceremonies were performed. They had a small round board well wrought, on which was strewn a kind of powder, and then laid on the head of the image. With a hollow cane the devotee then inhaled into his nostrils, this species of consecrated dust, with the accompaniment of certain words and gesticulations, he then seemed to remain beside himself, as if the powder had the effect of intoxication. They gave names to these statues, being those of their grandfathers, and in the memory of them, worshipped them with greater devotion. The caciques, and the people valued themselves on having better *Cemis* or idols than others, and endeavoured to hide them from the Spaniards, refusing to admit them into their places of worship, but it was usual to steal the *Cemis* of one another, and they were much prized if taken from a vanquished foe.

The Spaniards finding that oracles were delivered by certain idols, rushed into one of their temples, and the statue groaned and spoke unintelligible words in the language of the country. They im-

mediately dashed it down, and found that it was hollow, and had a cane put through it, communicating to the mouth, and extending to one corner of the room, where a species of priest stood, hidden by a curtain. The cacique, whose idol this was, intreated the Spaniards not to discover his secret and deception, as it was a means to keep the common people in awe and subjection.

Most of the caciques had three stones of a particular shape, to which they also paid devotion; the one, they said, was good for the growth of the productions of the earth, another for women with child to bring forth with ease, and the third, for rain or sunshine. Three of these Columbus sent to their Catholic Majesties by the first fleet that sailed, and three others he afterwards carried to Spain himself, but no historian mentions any *Cemts* brought to Europe, which is a collateral reason to believe, this is either the only one, for the author never met with any in the cabinets of curiosities of Spain, though there are several that formed once the worship of the Indians of the Main.

When a Cacique died, they opened, and dried him by the fire, that he might be preserved entire, the body was then laid in some cave, together with his arms, and frequently his most favourite wife attended him. This is the use to which the cave of St. Anna mentioned in this volume, and near the city of St Domingo, was destined, but there is one in the centre of the island, that has many more visible marks of its having been once used as a species of catacomb.

Many sick whose recovery was hopeless, were strangled, and it was their opinion that after death,



their souls went into a valley, again to join their parents and predecessors, where many pleasures awaited them.

They thought that their idols were immortal, and that the dead appeared to them. They had many fabulous traditions respecting the world, the sun, and moon. They said the latter came out of a cave called *Tovobaba*, which they held in great veneration, and kept adorned with two stone idols, to whom they made offerings, and supplicated for rain and other blessings.

They had a kind of priests, called *Buutiös*, who pretended they conversed with the dead, and knew their secrets, and who also acted as physicians to cure them of charms, which they thought were the causes of all diseases. These men carried several stone *Cemis* about with them, some to obtain rain, others to make the products of the earth thrive, and some for family purposes. They considered their idols capable of inflicting pain, and prayed to them for relief. They made offerings of dressed food to them, and they fasted in their honour.

*Dissertation on the Antilles or West India Islands, particularly Hispañola, Soil,-original State of its Productions, Climate, Winds, and other Phenomena, Creoles, Caraihs, Buccaneers, &c.*

FROM the 8th to the 32nd degree of N. latitude, America may be said to form an Archipelago, not only numerous and extensive, but the richest that the ocean has yet offered on its bosom, to the enterprize, or cupidity of man. Since the discovery of the new world, these islands, of which it is formed, have been called the Antilles, and divided into the windward, and leeward West India Islands, and named so in consequence of the wind generally prevailing from the East, where they commence, ranging in a western direction. They seem to form a curved string or chain, beginning at the Oronoko, and extending to the gulf of Mexico; the leeward ones being the largest, nor may it be considered rash to suppose, that they were once integral parts of the main continent, and divided from it by some great convulsion of nature. These islands have each a channel or passage, of various widths, some of which, serve for access to the south side of each, or to communicate with the main; the largest however, most central, and least dangerous, is that called the Mona passage, between Puerto Rico and Hispañola.

The direction of the mountains that stud, and diversify these several islands, is on a parallel with the situation and bearings of each; and their summits form the same regular curve. The waters also

which issue from their bosoms, seem in like manner to incline to the W. The three largest, viz. Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba, have indeed some rivers, which descend to the N. and E. but they are not so large, or so general, as those which fall in the other two directions, but the ocean beats with greatest violence to the S., though the volume of water is there less than that which constitutes the Atlantic seas. Besides the evident parallel directions of the mountains, that coincides also with the Main, we are further led to suppose them to be detached islands, from the similarity of indigenous productions remarkable in each, particularly in Tobago, Marguerita, and Trinidad, to windward, and which confine with the main, the wild cocoa, and a variety of soft woods are found, such as correspond to the opposite shores, and in Cuba and the other extreme islands to leeward, the cedar, cypress, &c. are produced, the same as in the Floridas.

In general, the soil is formed of layers of rich clay, or soft light gravel, on a bed of rock, which renders the different qualities and proportions more or less suited to vegetation. Where the clay is found less humid, and easily broken, mixed with spreads of rotten leaves, and crumbled remains of plants, the soil is thicker than where it is only composed of rich clays. Where the earth is light, less compact, and as it were more porous, the dew and moist are imbibed the deeper, and preserves longer that moist freshness, which is the parent of fecundity. Where these advantages are not united, the soil is more sterile, and as soon as the layers which have been created by the long decompo-

sition of original plants and vegetable productions, becomes destroyed, by the surface being too much exposed to the action of the sun, the salt and juicy particles exhale; for which reason, in colonial plantations, umbrageous trees are mixed, as well to preserve the nutritive moisture of the ground, as to protect the tender nurseling from the potent rays of the mid-day sun; and the powerful and dreaded effects of the sweeping winds, till it has taken sufficient root, and horizontally spread its own branches for the purposes of its defence. In coffee grounds, the upper shoots are always cut, which makes the sucker spread below to shelter the space it covers, and as a convenience also to the gatherer of the berries who cannot easily reach beyond six feet. It is in consequence of this great evaporation of the particles of nutrition, that lands which have been long uncovered of their native forests, are not suited to any planting that requires rich or forced soil, and only serve for sugar, which needs less indulgence.

When the Europeans first landed on these shores, they found them covered with large, lofty, and stately trees, bound as it were together, with a great variety of wood-bands and creepers, which rendered them impenetrable till they were cut, and of these native forests, many are yet in their original state in *Hispañola*, though the other islands in general have seen them exhausted. These tall, straight, and towering woods, apparently coeval with the formation of the world, seemed to possess several generations of trees, and the annual falling of their leaves, their decomposition, and the successive decay of their limbs and trunks, gave the surface of the soil, that rich sediment or deposit, which pro-

duced so rapid an increase of vegetation, when plants, reared by the hand of man, were substituted for those groves, which first studded the face of the country. The roots of the largest trees it is yet remarkable, do not strike perpendicularly into the ground, but seem to take an horizontal direction at the distance of two feet from the surface, inclining that way in search of the moist influence of the rains, which do not generally sink deeper, from being again absorbed by the solar ray, and only partially replaced by the descending dews. Trees again found on the rugged summit of the mountain, or the naked sides of the precipice; are comparatively so hard and solid, as to blunt the best tempered tools, as well from the time exhausted in their growth, as from the little moisture by which it has been assisted. In the valleys therefore, refreshed as they are, by the mountain cascade, the woods are uniformly of a softer texture, but clothed in greater verdure, and more the enlivening and refreshing inhabitants of the wild. There, the native shrubs and nutritive roots destined for the subsistence of man, grew in their original state, seemingly planted by a superior hand, to be the staff of life in these regions, both from their variety, utility, and wholesomeness, and of which a partial enumeration has been already made.

Nature, which appears to have placed a degree of relation between the character of the people, and the productions which are to form their subsistence, had gifted the Antilles with vegetables which shunned the mid-day heat, that sought the

freshening shade, that required little or no culture, suited to the languor of the natives, and which were yearly reproduced, twice or three times. Their inhabitants appeared not ambitious of improving or aiding her spontaneous operations, but suffered nature freely and unmolested to produce her bounties, nor ever thought of destroying one of her productions, to give greater vigour to another. Directed by the hand of chance, as the season came, they gathered what the earth had prepared for their aliment, but were not sensible of the advantages of timely or added culture.

To these tuberous roots, with which the country was stored, were superadded fruits of a variety of kinds, and of different size and flavour; as well intended for the food of man, as to allay the parching effects of a torrid zone, and relieve his system from the effects of fatigue, under the influence of a glowing sun. These fruit trees, were the ornament of the forest, as well as the waving beauty of the plain, according to their genus; they required no care, and ministered to the wants of the journeying Indian, as well as of those who were collected into clans. The cabbage tree and forest fruits, now often give subsistence to runaway negroes, who travel on devious roads from one end of the island to the other, and alone serve to nourish them for many months. It is remarkable, that the creeper and wood-band, which cling to, and often out-top the tallest inhabitant of the woods, seldom or never approach those which bear fruit, as if parent nature had stamped them with respectful deference to what was destined to form the sustenance and relief of man.

In other vegetables, however, such as eatable herbs, &c., these islands seemed deficient, and purslane and water-cresses nearly filled up the list. They had no domestic fowls, and the other inhabitants of the air, appeared more remarkable for the brilliancy of their plumage, than even the delicacy of their notes, or the taste of their flesh, excepting the pidgeon and a few aquatic birds; for, as we have already seen, game, though now found in abundance, consists chiefly of exotics. The finny race, nevertheless, was not wanting to the pleasure and convenience of the aborigines, though, in general, it is less healthy, and more tasteless, than that taken in the European waters. But their woods were crowded with medicinal herbs, gums, and balsams, suited to the ills of the climate, which they were intended to counteract, and the mineral rills which roll down from the mountains, served to give tone to the human frame, and add to the blessings of health.

The climate is divided into two seasons, which may be classed under those of wet and dry. Nature, always at work to reproduce herself, though veiled in secret operations, is at all times attired in a verdant dress, the leaf falls gradually, and is quickly and imperceptibly replaced; no mellow autumn serves to contrast with the perennial green, so that the vicissitudes and changes that take place, are not noticed by the superficial observer. The fruits succeed each other rapidly; but their approach is not sensible as in Europe. Those of some trees are nearly ripe, before the leaves put out, which is observable in the family of the plumbs; and again other trees bear little else than flowers, such as those generally planted in the cocoa walks, whose

scarlet canopy afford the required shade. Nature, however, being uniform in her unwearied rounds, the more attentive observer, who nearly studies her approaches, can perceive, besides the varied temperature of the climate, an icer division of the seasons, and indications that forcibly strike the botanist; but the leading features from which the hasty traveller judges, are from the earth being inundated by frequent and heavy showers, or parched by a continued drowth.

These last are the material changes, however, which in some measure temperate the potent rays of a perpendicular sun; but are never assisted by thick, cloudy, or foggy weather, from the continued serene and transparent state of the sky, when the rains do not fall; though early in a morning, the sides of the mountains are seen covered with thick vapours, which arise from the valleys, attracted by the powers of the solar beam, which, as he rises, gradually raises them out of their specific gravity, which they seem to lose, ascending like revolving clouds of thick white smoke, till they disperse, and unveil the verdant declivities they had hitherto kept out of view.

The variations of climate, it may, nevertheless, be said, originate from and are less caused by the change of seasons, than the influence of the winds; yet these, when they blow, are not equally refreshing from all quarters. The Easterly breezes cool the air, a S. or W. wind render it sultry; but a Northerly one, if it lasts long, as it sometimes does in January, creates a cold dryness in the air, and occasions catarrhs.

The winds, in general, prevail from the East, which may, as we have before remarked, be considered as owing to two great causes. The first



is the diurnal motion of the earth, evolving from West to East, and which consequently creates a greater rapidity from its shape, about the equinoctial line, than in the other distances of latitude, where the space it has to pursue is greater, and more time allowed. The second, which appears equally forcible, arises from the warmth of the sun, which, in ascending on his course, rarifies the air, and obliges it to flow to the W. gradually, as the earth advances towards the E. It is owing to the prevalence of the breezes from this direction, that the trees which are exposed to its continued action, spread and form their branches to the W., to which point they are impelled, and their roots are observed to shoot most in an opposite line, as it were, the better to resist its power. Owing to this, gusts of wind from the W. do the most damage, so that to judge of the violence of a storm, it is not so good a criterion to sum up the quantity of trees that have been blown down, but to examine in which direction they have been unrooted.

In consequence of the above phænomena, we remark, that the regular Easterly breezes are not in general felt, till about ten o'clock in the day, and increase progressively as the sun holds on his course, but diminish again as he loses his influence, in approaching nearer the W. Towards the evening, the land-wind springs up, but only reaches to a certain distance from the shores. This periodical change of wind, is occasioned by the air of the earth, which has been, during the day, rarified by the exhalations, which continually rise from the heated globe, and which are here multiplied from the exuberance of vegetation, when the attractive powers of the sun

recede, necessarily again attaining their lost weight, flow back on the space covering the sea, where the same physical causes do not exist. This naturally creates a reflux, producing a breeze from the shore, on each opposite side of the island at the same time; but which is only felt strong to a certain distance. It has greater and farther prevalence along the coasts of the Main, from the size of the land giving rise to greater corresponding causes; but amidst all the islands, it can be so much relied on, as to produce a degree of dependance in the navigation to and fro.

The land-wind continues till nine or ten the next day, when the sun dispersing the acquired density of the sea air, and again raising up the exhaled particles of the earth, which had, during the night, received their accustomed freshness, the air from the sea, which forms the greatest body, in its turn, rushes in, and produces what is called the breeze *du large*. These physical and, as it were, providential causes, not only give rise to a species of luxury, but aid to render the torrid zone habitable, and give navigation a degree of facility and security. In the middle of summer, even in the dog days, it is noticed, that the Easterly breezes are the strongest, from the activity of the sun on the air, being then the greatest. In Curaçao, the wind from that quarter is so very regular and predominant, that any other is seldom experienced; but in the evening periodical changes.

The showers of rain which fall irregularly in seasons, also partly serve to soften the effects of the climate; but not in an equal degree. When nothing is found to break the influence of the reigning Eolus, the clouds are successively dispersed by him as they

form, or are driven by his sweeping power through the sky, and forced to disburthen themselves amidst the lofty and attractive woods, or on the mountain summit, over which, their weight will no longer carry them. Thus it is, that in the elevated and secluded spots, it rains with much greater frequency, than near the shores, or such places as are chosen for the settlement of towns.

When the storm, however, becomes violent, or the winds are variable, or pass over to the S. and W., it is then that the rains fall thick and heavy, and the clouds seem to disgorge themselves in increased quantities, from having hitherto been withheld and kept back, by the empire of the prevailing East. In some of the other islands, where his constancy is less, rains are more frequent and abundant, particularly in the winter, which may be said to begin about the middle of July, and to last till that of October, when the rainy season commences, during which time, it is remarked, that more rain falls in one week, than is experienced in a European climate, in the whole year. Unlike the gentle and penetrating showers which are there met with, here the clouds unload themselves in torrents, which, without having time to be imbibed by the parched and porous earth, run to the sea in a rapid and unavailing current.

Notwithstanding that these rains refresh the air, they, at the same time, give it a certain moisture, that is not only uncomfortable, but extremely destructive. Flesh meat, for this reason, is soon tainted; and it becomes necessary to consign dead bodies early to their graves. Bread soon turns mouldy, wine easily sours, fruits decay soon after they are plucked; but this corroding and humid power, is most preva-

lent on iron and steel, which soon rust, so as to render an assortment of hardware, whose merit often depends on the polish, a very dangerous selection in this country, for, being closed up in stores, where a current of air cannot remove the damp atmosphere, they soon tarnish, and, if neglected, spoil.

Garden seeds can scarcely be preserved till the season of putting them into the ground arrives, nor can it be considered, on this account, healthy to visit the churches in the night or morning, till they have been opened some time, and are well ventilated from the pernicious miasmata that arise from the vaults and burying places. Books and papers easily moulder away, or are devoured by a small insect that burrows in them, for which reason, when the French held possession of the W. end of Santo Domingo, every notary, magistrate, and parish curate, was obliged annually to send over legalized copies of all their transactions and records, for the purpose of being preserved in the archives of Paris, and secured from the destruction of the colonial climate. These now serve as a partial consolation, at least, to the expelled planters of the island, for although they have lost their estates, they have yet access to the titles of property. Owing to this great decay of papers, and their continually being consumed by worms, which prey upon them, the archives of the city of Santo Domingo, do not contain a writing or document of ancient date, and which the author has narrowly examined, in hopes of meeting with some signatures, at least of the sons of Columbus. In consequence, also, of the moisture of the surrounding element, the poisonous qualities of the ink seem to have corroded through, and destroyed the texture of the paper; but

a letter written by Columbus, is said to be preserved in Jamaica. The natives also say, that many of their public records were destroyed in the capture of the city, by Sir Francis Drake.

These moist properties of the air, are, in a more striking manner, observed, with regard to all sorts of grain. This was one of the causes, in the early days of the discovery, that reduced Columbus to such great distress for want of provisions; his grains and flour fermented and became spoiled, his followers were dissatisfied and clamorous, heavy complaints were sent over by the fleets to Spain against the admiral, which formed one link of that chain of misfortunes, which afterwards fell upon him. The wheat and barley were observed soon to sprout, swell, and be rendered useless. The French, in storing their garrisoned towns in the West Indies, found that it greatly aided to the preservation of flour, to pack it very tight in the barrels, by beating it with an iron weight, which rendered it less impervious to the destructive air. A plan was afterwards thought of, which fixed the attention, and received the encouragement of their ministers; which was, to pass it, when powdered, through kilns, which operation removed all moisture, and destroyed the yet remaining vegetable particles. Experiments have also proved, that it is a great advantage in point of preservation, frequently to besmear the barrels, particularly of American flour, which are packed loosely, with the greasy brine in which pork has been put up, as it helps greatly to fill up the pores, and hinders the many weavels from lodging in the wood, which is the first point of their attack, so that an old flour barrel, in which they have spread devastation, is perforated

throughout like a honey comb, particularly in the heading.

Many persons are of opinion, that among the consequences attendant on rain, earthquakes may be enumerated; but they are now so unfrequent, in Hispaniola, at least, that they create no sensations whatever of dread. It is, however, more, perhaps, from their having been generally noticed to occur at the end of the rainy season, and those when the tides rise to the highest, that philosophers have said that they might be attributed to these two causes, which may, however, be thought to have a collateral operation.

The united waters of the sky and sea rush on, and ravage and undermine the earth in convulsive shocks. The sea, particularly in this quarter, bursts with redoubled force on the coasts, and there spends its fury. Amongst the most violent assaults of this unquiet and turbulent element, are those which are experienced once or twice a year, between the months of July and October, and which are called in the colonies, *raz de maree*. They are always most noticed on the W. coasts, when the winds have continued blowing from that quarter, or the S. The waves then break on the shore with an astonishing violence, and throw the spray in milky clouds around. No vessels in the outports or open roads, can, at that time, keep their anchors.

The hurricanes are, however, thought to be serviceable to the crops, in both increasing, and bringing them forward. Whether it is, that these violent agitations, in rending the bosom of the earth, prepare it for fecundity, or that they leave behind them some particles proper to the vegetation of plants, ap-

pears difficult to decide; it has, however, been remarked, that this apparent and passing disorder, was not only a consequence of the constant order of nature, which provided for regeneration, by the means of previous destruction; but a cause of preservation to the whole system of reproduction, which only keeps alive and retains its wonted creative freshness; but by an interior fermentation, so that this phenomenon of hurricanes, is, on the principles of the relative evil, producing general good.

The first settlers of the Antilles, thought they had discovered the certain prognostics of this alarming event. They considered it was indicated by the air being troubled, the disk of the sun turning red, and being covered with a thick vapour, that added to its size. The caverns emitted a sound as if winds were closed and pent up within them. To the N. W. the sky was seen to lower, the sea groaned and sent forth a strong smell, and though its surface was not broke in waves, it seemed to swell and roll in long and wide bodies of lifted water. The wind suddenly changed from the E. to the W., and blew with quick and increased violence.

These hurricanes are seldom experienced from the E., their influence is in general partial, and what is still more strange is, that though they often scower the windward islands, nay, one may almost say, annually, they are not often felt below Puerto Rico. This has induced many to believe, that they are formed on the continent; for the W. wind, which sometimes reigns, blows with violence in the S., meeting with Boreas who, in his turn, has sway, produces a shock equal to their respective rapidity and acquired motion. If this happens in the long and

narrow defiles of the mountains, a current of air must naturally issue, and extend in proportion to the assumed force, and impulsive velocity, and of a size on a parallel with the channel, in which it has been confined. All solid bodies which may be opposed to this impelling torrent of air, will receive a shock proportionate to their surface, so that was the force of this volume of wind, to be met by a large perpendicular opposing mass, instead of an horizontal one, the consequences must be of a nature the most fatal. Happily the different bearings of the islands, their angular and spherical figures, present to these volumes of compressed air, surfaces more or less oblique, which serve to break the current, divide its force, and gradually disunite its dreaded power. Experience has proved this to be so much the case, that in a direction where a hurricane has smitten with its greatest and combined fury, it has frequently not been perceived ten leagues to windward, or to leeward. \* It has been moreover noticed, that these most dreadful hurricanes come from the N. W., of consequence, from the defiles formed by the mountains of Santa Martha, and issuing collectively over the gulf of Paria, sweep, in an E. direction, the windward islands which lay in their way, thus creating a secondary reason, that their influence is not so much felt below, and the more distant the obstructing bodies are placed, the effects become diminished.

The various mixtures of different population that have gone over to settle in the islands, have created a generation that exclusively belongs to neither, and which we call creoles, and who generally partake, in some degree, of the effects of the climate, in their sallow appearance, though no transverse blood should



circulate in their veins. The members of their bodies are of a singular suppleness, arising, not so much from their organic constitutions, as from the free and unshackled manner in which they are brought up. This gives them a great degree of agility, and makes them excel in feats of activity. They are in general brave, but not persevering, and from their lively and lofty spirits, are little capable of discipline or control. Their courage is an ebullition that ends with the approach of reverse; but is not decreased by the appearance of danger. If once vanquished, or depressed, they are not easily rallied, or again led on. They have finer sentiments of honour, than the mass of common people in other climes, and treasons or venality, are not characteristics that often soil their actions. They are in general hospitable, prepossessing, and marked with a degree of candid generosity. Their professions are, however, often ostentatious; but the females boast the greatest share of disinterested feeling. Some traits might be mentioned of them, that wear the stamp of heroic actions, and some occurred in the siege of the city of Santo Domingo, which, in point of individual distress, may be mentioned with any of the age, that might be deemed worthy of the most famed Roman matrons\*.

From the vigour however, and warmth of their imaginations, they cannot brook the least restraint, which renders them impetuous, and they are inconstant in

\* It is remarkable, that in the great distresses occasioned by the siege of the city of Santo Domingo, whilst the European Frenchmen enjoyed the scenes of wretchedness, by which they were surrounded; the creoles of both sexes, uniformly did every thing in their power to relieve the Spanish inhabitants

their actions, and modes of thinking. They are continually impelled on in search of pleasure, which they court in a new shape. To it they sacrifice every consideration, and are not wearied by its continued round. They are however possessed of penetration, they have a ready facility in seizing all ideas that depend on fancy, and do not require a combination of thought. They have the talent of observation, but not of deep reflection, yet this gives them a happy mixture of character, that renders them always pleasing and gay, often interesting, and in general endows them with good qualities. The Spanish creoles however partake, in a certain degree, of that wary bias of character, so remarkable in their European countrymen.

The voracious and saline air of the Antilles, deprives the women of that fresh ruddy complexion which forms the characteristic traits of the more northern fair, but they are possessed of a soft paleness of countenance, accompanied with a winning languor, which gives them equal powers to captivate and charm. They are extremely sober, and drink little else than chocolate and coffee, which latter is taken early in the morning, often in the course of the day, and always after any meal; being thought to give tone to the frame, and to help to counteract the enervating effects of the climate. The Spanish creoles often file their teeth into a point, which they consider as an additional beauty, but which the European by no means and prisoners; effecting the escape of many, at the risk of their own personal safety. It was also noticed, that the militia corps, formed out of these people, were always the first in the face of danger, and underwent the most fatigue, and with the greatest cheerfulness.

would think so. It is difficult to say, whether they have borrowed this singular practice, from the former natives. The creoles are jealous in the extreme, but have little of that steady attachment which marks the woman of sound morals, and they seem to forget with as much ease, as they acquired a sympathetic feeling. The females are often found more inexorable and severe to their slaves, than the men, and generally prefer to witness the infliction of those punishments which they ordain. Both sexes are marked with a degree of hauteur, and overbearing pride, for such are in general the propensities of man, accustomed to live amidst his inferiors.

As in the chapters of the preceding essay, we have given some outlines of the original inhabitants of Hispaniola, it may not be thought amiss, to add a few remarks on the aborigines, that were found on the neighbouring islands, which may serve as an additional illustration to the whole. It was, after discovering and settling Haiti, one of the great Antilles, that Columbus examined the smaller ones that lay to windward. He found the natives stronger, bolder, and more warlike than those he had before visited. They considered themselves sprung from Guiana, to the shores of which they pointed, and this appears probable from the resemblance of those Indians, still found there, to the original natives of the Caribbean Islands. These Indians were held in dread by the more effeminate ones to Leeward, whom at one time they must have ravaged, for, at the arrival of the Spaniards, those of Haiti fled, supposing them to be the thirsty and infuriate invaders from the islands above, who again came to desolate their country, and it was Columbus's promise of protection against

them, that served as a secondary instrument to their future subjugation.

He found the Caribs more fierce and athletic, and they painted, or rather covered their naked limbs, with a wash of rocou, to preserve them from the stings of insects, as well as to make them look more terrific, and which gave them the colour of a boiled lobster.

Their opinions with regard to religion, were those common to barbarous tribes, and chiefly consisted of rude notions of a good and evil principle, but they were more inclined to dread the malignant, than revere that which they thought benign. Like the other aborigines of the Leeward Islands, they were found in a state of nature, they had no form of government, had no distinction of rank, and were surprized to find subordination in the Europeans when they went amongst them. They thought it strange, that the weak should command the strong, and that one man should overrule the whole. Divested as they were of pride, ambition, interest, and those other over-reaching passions which mark nations in society, their manners could not be complicated, each family seemed to live in a separate manner from the rest; in the midst of it, dwelt the head, like a kind of patriarch; his descendants lived in huts around, but appeared to have no habits of industry, till they were impelled by the wants of nature, for the quick and abundant growth of roots and cotton, rendered the culture which principally devolved on the women, easy, and not laborious. Smoking \* was their great luxury,

\* The custom of smoking Columbus first discovered when he arrived in Cuba. The Spaniards were struck with surprise

and sleeping, which was done in hammocks of their own plaiting, was their chief pastime. They had nothing even of that more animated feature of the Haitians, and their dances were heavy and serious, and the movements of the body, seemed in unison with the gloomy state of their minds, but they generally ended in bloody contests that were preceded by drunkenness. Hatred and vengeance seemed the ruling passions of these savages, and in the midst of their feasts it was, that they swore to each other fidelity, and to go and carry the ravages of the war to the neighbouring continent, or the other islands that offered them more abundant pillage. Even love to their females, was a sentiment beneath their demonstration, and professions of tenderness, were apparently incompatible with their habitual disregard of danger.

They embarked in canoes formed of a single tree, which had been felled by the application of fire at its foot, and which was hollowed with sharp flint stones, and burning coals, which they were dexterous in confining to the parts intended to be scooped out. On these they embarked at the most seasonable periods of the year, and were guided to the place

on seeing the natives traverse the fields with fuel in their hands, with which they lighted the leaves of certain plants, folded and rolled up in the present form of cigars. For this reason the name *tabaco* was by the Spaniards given to the burning herb which was only the Indian term for the mode of smoking it, but cigars yet are synonymous with *tabacos* in the colonies, as well as in Spain. This is supposed to be the first discovery of the uses and properties of this nauseous plant, now become so general.

of their invasion, by the progress of the sun. These they attacked for the sake of vengeance, or in search of plunder. Their weapons consisted of large knotted clubs, and poisoned arrows. When the Spaniards first visited their shores, they were not always successful in their efforts to subdue them, but as gold was the primary object of their research, and this they did not find amongst the Caraihs, their subjugation was not so much sought for; and in their second attempts to carry them away as slaves, they found that their haughty and sullen dispositions would not brook restraint, they became despondent, and died when forced to labour, which made their possession not worth the blood and toil expended in seizing them, so that the conquerors relinquished their enterprize. The Lucayos Indians, however, or those of the Bahamas, which were the first discovered by Columbus, but of little territorial utility, answered their purpose, and they were all imported into Hispaniola, to work in the mines, and till the earth, where they eventually perished with the rest.

The English and French at length established themselves in the windward islands, on the ruin of the Caraihs, and these ports became the first seats, in the colonies, for partial armaments made to intercept the Spanish vessels that visited those seas, which depredations continued even in times of peace: in retaliation the Spaniards seized all vessels they met in the islands, which they considered as exclusively belonging to them, from their prior discovery. Both the English and French, long frequented these shores, where they were well received by the Caraihs, before they thought of making any settlements. In 1625, both formed a lodgement on St. Christopher's, and peace-

ably divided the island between them, intent only on enriching themselves, with the spoils of the common enemy. The natives retired, telling them "that land must be very scarce and bad in their countries, since they came so far, and amidst so many dangers, in search of fresh ones, that had little alluring in their quality, or appearance."

The court of Madrid viewed these settlements with a jealous eye, and in 1630 sent admiral Toledo with a formidable fleet to the Brazils, intended to operate against the Dutch. They ordered him on his way, to exterminate these pirates, as they called them, and who, according to the notions of that crown, had usurped part of their possessions; but it was from the dreaded neighbourhood of two more active and enterprizing people creating a degree of inquietude, that made them think of destroying them. On their defeat, the greatest part of the French who escaped, went down to the small island of Tortuga, opposite the W. end of Hispaniola, and eventually receiving succours from their government at home, at length got possession of part of the main island, by which means the Spaniards lost what they prized more, than the useless island from which they had driven them.

The English and the other French who escaped the sword of the Spaniards at St. Christopher's fled to other islands, and the latter, busied about their other more valuable possessions of the main, left them there to repose in tranquillity. The conquered settlers suspended their national rivalities, to the great misfortune of the Caribs. Frequent and destructive wars were waged mutually against them, and the different islands often presented scenes of



horror and desolation. These hitherto adventurers, did not receive the consideration of their respective governments at home, till the month of January, 1660, when a treaty was formed, which secured to each nation, the possessions which the varied fortune of war, had mutually placed in their power. By this treaty it was stipulated, that France should retain Martinique, Grenada, and Guadalupe, and England was to maintain Barbadoes, Nevis, Antigua, and Monserrat, but St. Christopher's was to remain in common, between the two nations. The Caribs were concentrated to Dominica and St. Vincent, where their population was now reduced to 6000; but they have gradually decreased from that number as the white population has spread, and at present there are only a few left, who live separate in a kind of independence, too insignificant to deserve force being carried against them. These islands have all undergone a change of fortune; in general, those of the French, have been taken in time of war, and given up at the making of peace, and now they have not a footing amongst them; the English and Spaniards being masters of all the West Indies excepting St. Bartholomew's which is too inconsiderable to merit the attention of either.

The English colonies, in the first stages of culture, flourished more than those of the French, owing to a greater naval protection, and the better establishment of regulations. The latter, like the Spaniards, soon fell into the depressing system of abusive privileges, and monopoly. As we have already observed, many of the French adventurers who had escaped the inroads of the Spaniards at St.



Christopher's, effected a lodgement on Tortuga, and turned their pursuits first to privateering, and then to form settlements on the opposite and fertile shores of Hispaniola.

They were at first called Buccaneers, from the colonial word *boucan*, which means, a fire made in the woods, at which they dressed and smoaked their food, in a kind of barbacue way. They were yet without women, and they associated in small parties. Every thing was in common, and descended to the survivors, and they resembled some of the clans which Cæsar found when he conquered the Gauls. Whenever personal disputes occurred, if the arbitration of the neighbours was unavailing, they ended in duels, fought at a certain distance with their firelocks. Their own country was forgotten, and their recollection of it, appeared washed away by the baptism each had received on passing the tropics. They even changed their family names, and adopted warlike ones, or *noms de guerre*, that afterwards descended to their families, and created some singular law-suits among the most wealthy of the future planters, respecting genealogy, as they afterwards became the greatest land-holders in the country when it was planted, and left behind them the largest and most valuable estates.

A shirt, often stained in the blood of the animals killed in the chase, a thick pantaloon, and a leather girdle, from which hung a short sword or manchete, a butcher's knife, a pair of sandals made of dried hides; formed their cloathing and accoutrements, and a musket that carried an ounce ball, and some good bull-dogs, were what they depended on

for subsistence and defence. Their time was taken up in hunting the bulls, which since the discovery of the Spaniards, had increased to such a rapid degree, that the hide was all they sought, and these were collected in the bye ports, where the Dutch and Danes came to barter for the arms, ammunition, and cloathing the hunters required.

To these original settlers of the great colony of French St. Domingo, were added, redemptioners, or a species of poor men, who were carried out from Europe, and for the consideration of their passage were sold to the Buccaneers, whom they consented to serve for three years, at the expiration time they became free, and could work for themselves. These were what the French called, *un trente six mois*, or redemptioners, they became, as it were, the founders of the colony, and many afterwards sought to be ennobled with brevets of nobility.

Men of this description, hardened by continual exercise, and daily fed with fresh meat and game, were not subject to infirmities, and their daily exposure to danger made them so familiar with it, that they became a deadly foe to the troops which the Spanish government of Santo Domingo sent against them. The Spanish colony however, which in the early times as we have seen, had reached a high degree of splendour and consistency, had gradually declined, and by this time, retained little else, than the shadow of what it had been. At different periods strong expeditions were however, sent out against the Buccaneers, who fled to the mountains, which they were obliged to defend with unequal success. At length the Spaniards resolved themselves to kill all the horned cattle that had

spread in the West end of the island, and this effected, they returned to the East, leaving the desert woods and plains to the quiet possession of the former hunters, who finding their pristine habits of life useless, turned their attention to planting, at first for their own subsistence, which laid the great foundation to that gigantic colony, which we have noticed in our former pages.

In 1665 it was, that France began to acknowledge them, and sent them out a governor; and women were picked up to be distributed amongst them. The morals of these could not be supposed to be the best, from the manner in which they were collected; they were in general, amassed from the purlieus of the large cities, and were within the power of the police, at the time they were sent out. They were, however, the most acceptable to these hermits, and chance decided their lot. "I take thee," the husband generally said, "without caring what thou hast been. Thy being here, is an indication that thy past life has not been the most exemplary, but I heed little about it. I do not ask thee to render me any account of the past, thou wert then mistress of thy own will and actions, but I shall demand of thee rigorously to answer for what is to come." Then striking the butt end of his musket, he added, "this is what will avenge me of thy future infidelities; if thou art wanting to me, this wilt thou not escape:"—and thus was the marriage ceremony ended.

In the mean time, the Buccaneers were not confined in their feats of prowess to the shores of Hispaniola. After driving the Spaniards from Tortuga, they erected fortifications. They fitted out light

vessels manned with from 70 to 150 daring spirits, who formed into a company, and cruized with the greatest success against the common enemy. They seemed to be a congregation of all nations, and many Indians preferred their free mode of life to that forced restraint they experienced from the Spaniards. They generally boarded their enemy, and their history is filled with feats that would ever have ennobled the naval annals of any nation. Vessels laden with merchandize from Europe were not sufficiently tempting, they had no means of expending such cargoes, they waited till they returned freighted with precious metals. They have even attacked the galleons, and were dreaded in strong convoys which they followed, to pick up the stragglers. They went round into the South Seas, spread terror along the coasts of Peru and California, and even captured the armed force that was sent to repel them: frequently the English and French, joined in the same attack, and fraternally shared the spoils. The first lots were always laid aside for those who had been wounded in the combat; and an extra remuneration was besides made, according to the deserts of the case. The commander had only a right to one share, like the rest of the crew, but they presented him with more, in a way proportioned to the zeal and activity he had displayed, and if any were killed in the action, their parts were given to their relations.

The Spanish navigation being unprotected by a naval force, and continually exposed to dangers, became confined, the merchants finding their property continually devastated by these privateers, ceased their commercial relations, and sea-privateering at

length became a trade to the Buccaneers scarcely worth following. They then turned their attacks to some of the rich maritime towns of the main continent, and Cuba, but amongst all their acts of atrocious courage and cruel audacity, none were rendered so famous as those of the leader Montbars. His dislike to the Spaniards commenced in early youth, when at college, and carried him to lengths which would equally soil the page of history, with many of those of the objects of his hatred. A handful of the Buccaneers took and pillaged Maracaibo, and overrun the country surrounding the lake. They burnt the town of Gibraltar on the Main, because its pillage did not answer their expectations, and Maracaibo would have met with the same fate, had not the inhabitants ransomed the town. They, however, carried off all the valuables they could meet with, several images, and bells, many of which are existing at present in Port au Prince, particularly a large Saviour on the cross, cut out of iron-wood, and much revered by the common people. It was in this interval, that Morgan, one of the most famous Buccaneers of Jamaica, made himself master of Porto Bello. After surprising the town, he took possession of the forts, by making the women and friars march before him, and first ascend the ladders, supposing that the garrison would not fire upon the objects of their love and respect. He afterwards took and ravaged Panama, which was preceded by that of St. Catherine's.

The declension of Spain, brought on a state of languor which soon reached her distant colonies. The peninsula had long become the seat of domestic divisions, and it was weakened by the revolt in

Catalonia and Portugal, by convulsions in the kingdom of Naples, by the defeat of the Spanish armies at Rocroy,\* by their continued losses in the Low Countries, by the incapacity of those placed at the head of affairs, by the apparent extinction of that national pride which had till then made them so famous, and both the French and English thought this the most favourable moment to attack her foreign dominions. It was then that Cromwell, as we have seen in the body of our essay, in 1655 sent an expedition that captured Jamaica, which from the year 1509 remained under the Spanish flag, and its former inhabitants retired to Cuba.

From Jamaica several expeditions were formed against the Main, and often carried on in concert with the French *Buccaneers*, the same object led on both parties. Peru now became the point of attack, and each nation thought of bringing back to their own homes, riches, and an abundance of pillage. Some marched to the South Sea by the isthmus of Darien, and others went round by the straits of Magellan, in all to the number of 4000 men. On arriving, they spread desolation and terror in every direction, they took upwards of twenty towns, pillaged the country round, and laid every place through which they passed, under contribution.

The issue of this famous expedition did not an-

\* A town situated in the the department of the Ardennes, celebrated for the victory which the Prince de Condè, then Duke of Enghien and only 22 years of age, gained over the Spaniards in 1643. Nine thousand Spaniards and Walloons are said to have fallen in the battle, most of whom refused to take quarter.

swer however the expectations of the adventurers; many fell ~~and~~ to the climate, others again in returning ~~lost~~ with the ~~ships~~, fell into ambuscades, which were placed to intercept them, some perished with hunger, so that few got safe to their respective islands. Many of the vessels in doubling Cape Horn were lost, and an expedition which had taken four years to effect it, ended in nearly the destruction of the brave band that undertook it.

Campeachy was the next place on which the Buccaneers of St. Domingo resolved a descent, and in 1685 it was carried into execution. The inhabitants fled into the woods, so great was their dread of these famed ravagers of their country, a considerable booty was carried off, but the last most memorable occurrence of these daring men was the capture of Carthagena in conjunction with an armed force from France. But the war which soon afterwards broke out with the Prince of Orange, creating a division of interests in the Buccaneers of the English and French islands, these depredations ceased, the respective governments now encouraged the progress of culture, the toils of the field were assumed, and this hardy and enterprising race of men, gradually became dispersed, and distributed in the tilling of grounds, eventually laying the foundation of those two great colonies, which we have witnessed in our own days, and that have progressively exceeded those of any other nations.

END OF VOL. I.











